



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-400

MEETING: September 17, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter Supporting HR 1526

MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter Supporting HR 1526 - Restoring Healthy Forests. HR 1526 will encourage better management of our National Forests and includes language extending the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, which provides critical funding to our local schools and for maintenance of county roads.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has supported Federal legislation that will ultimately benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support, which may not carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

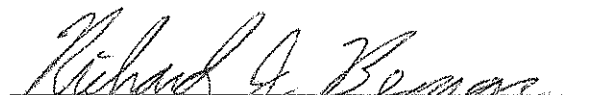
ATTACHMENTS:

Support HR 1526 (DOC)

BILLS-HR1526 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Rick Benson, County Administrator 9/12/2013

RESULT: ADOPTED [4 TO 1]

MOVER: John Carrier,

SECONDER: Janet Bibby,

AYES: Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, Kevin Cann, John Carrier

NAYS: Lee Stetson



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

LEE STETSON, CHAIR
KEVIN CANN, VICE-CHAIR
JANET BIBBY
MERLIN JONES
JOHN CARRIER

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JOHN CARRIER, District V Supervisor
FROM: RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board *RL*
SUBJECT: **Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter Supporting HR 1526 - Restoring Healthy Forests**
RES. 13-400

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on September 17, 2013

ACTION AND VOTE:

A. Board of Supervisors RES-2013-400

Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter Supporting HR 1526 - Restoring Healthy Forests

Supervisor Stetson noted that he has difficulty supporting this legislation; that he is keenly aware of the necessity of addressing the issue of Healthy Forests but feels this legislation has insurmountable difficulties including: a weakening of the Endangered Species Act in language stating that the Secretary of Agriculture has the mandate to issue a determination that a proposed covered project will not jeopardize the continued existence of a species; as well as language granting a categorical exemption from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for areas of 10,000 acres (approximately 15 square miles) or less.

Supervisor Carrier noted that those are the parts that he likes; noted that he thinks that providing 25% of the timber harvests for Secure Rural Schools or county roads is not sustainable; but he thinks it is a good start.

Supervisor Bibby discussed options noting that, in similar situations in the past, the Board has directed that the Vice-Chair sign, which leaves the Chair free to send an individual letter; or, the Board could individually comment.

Supervisor Stetson noted that he is not comfortable with either option.

Supervisor Cann required clarification of procedure of what happens if the majority of the Board passes something and the Chair refuses to sign. CAO noted that the Board could adopt this with a majority vote; and discussed different ways it could be signed. Supervisor Cann noted that he doesn't think this bill has any chance of passing; doesn't feel that it will get out of the House as written; noted that even though he thinks that this bill has no chance, it's better than the one they did last year; there's going to be a major effort on it; and he feels that the Board should

support it to some degree, even if a letter is framed to say that the Board does not universally support everything in it.

Supervisor Stetson noted that he cannot support this as it stands.

Supervisor Jones noted that he doesn't feel this will pass with all of its current flaws; noted that after taking Rim Fire tours he feels that the Federal Government is not doing a good job managing the forests and they make it virtually impossible for the timber industry to help; but, he feels that we need to start someplace, so he is in favor.

Supervisor Bibby noted that in the past we have included Minute Orders with letters so that those who read it can see the actual vote; and have also provided direction for the Vice Chair to sign instead of the Chair. She also read language from the bill discussing its purpose as being, among other things, "to restore employment and educational opportunities and improve the economic stability of counties containing national forest lands," and noted that she feels that we need to give the legislature courage because we need healthy forests.

Supervisor Cann noted he would like the letter that we write to be a little bit specific; noted that he will be happy to sign it as Vice Chair if that is what the Board wants; but, he would like to help with the verbiage.

Supervisor Stetson remarked that he has heard six objections by the Board; noted that he might be inclined to sign it if they would like to delineate those objections in the letter; but, he cannot support it until then.

Supervisor Carrier noted that this letter is stronger than the RCRC and CSAC letter, and he thinks it addresses some of Supervisor Cann's concerns; noted that the hearing is tomorrow so this is more symbolic than anything; and feels that it is important to give legislators encouragement to bring something back.

Supervisor Cann noted that the Board's comments are warranted no matter where they are in the process; doesn't know how specific he might advocate; thinks we need to firmly support the process and expediency that this bill indicates and applaud the effort; and thinks we can easily craft a letter of support that doesn't necessarily blindly follow everything.

Supervisor Bibby noted that the Minute Order can get very in-depth and capture their conversations on their concerns.

CAO suggested that Supervisors Carrier and Cann could get together and work on another draft to bring back to the Board; or they could also entertain a motion to go with the letter as-is, or with alterations.

Supervisor Stetson remarked that in his mind you don't endorse something you disagree with, as it becomes a record of your intent; he will not be endorsing it; but, he will entertain any motion in relation to the issue.

Supervisor Carrier moved to accept the letter as presented. Supervisor Bibby seconded.

The Motion Passed 3-1-1; AYES: Jones, Bibby and Carrier; NAYS: Stetson; ABSTAIN: Cann.

Supervisor Cann noted that he clearly supports the process, but would like a different letter.

Supervisor Bibby moved to attach a Minute Order to the letter. County Counsel approved the appropriateness of the motion.

Supervisor Cann requested that action be held on the motion currently on the floor; remarked that he has made it very clear that he wants some action; noted that he is strongly in support of the Board acting positively; and inquired of County Counsel if he could change his vote since there hasn't been another vote taken yet. County Counsel responded that the matter can be reconsidered prior to the end of the meeting. Supervisor Cann clarified that he does not want to reconsider the matter, just change his vote.

Chair Stetson noted that there is a motion on the floor.

Supervisor Bibby withdrew her motion, and asked that the floor be returned in order to clarify the first matter.

Supervisor Cann noted that this is such a vital issue that the Board must act; noted that he supports them acting even though he may not be 100% in agreement; and requested that his vote be changed from ABSTAIN to AYE. With that change, the Motion to Accept the Letter as Presented was passed 4-1; AYES: Jones, Bibby, Cann and Carrier; NAYS: Stetson.

Supervisor Bibby moved that a Minute order be forwarded with the letter.

Supervisor Jones seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

The Clerk of the Board inquired if public comment was necessary. CAO responded that this item was originally on the Consent Agenda and public comment was opened at that point, before this item was pulled.

RESULT: ADOPTED [4 TO 1]

MOVER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

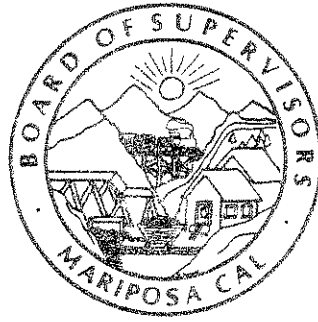
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

AYES: Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, Kevin Cann, John Carrier

NAYS: Lee Stetson

Cc: File

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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District 1 LEE STETSON
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER

September 3, 2013

Congressman Doc Hastings, Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Peter Defazio
Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: SUPPORT HR 1526

Dear Congressman Hastings and Defazio:

A phrase such as "money does not grow on trees" is quite often overused. However in America's national forests money and jobs do grow on trees. Unfortunately a failed Federal Forest management system has led to the loss of thousands of family wage jobs and has left our rural forested counties with a myriad of social and economic problems.

An increase in sustainable forest management is essential if we are to ever provide the healthy forests that were envisioned by President Theodore Roosevelt. The forest mortality we are facing now is destroying habitat for wildlife, and more importantly as we've experienced firsthand creating a catastrophic situation for massive wildfires that destroy everything in their path. These catastrophic wildfires leave millions of acres of forests susceptible to massive bug and insect infestation. H.R. 1526 addresses all of these issues. It provides a common sense approach for returning to sustainable forest management where the planned harvest can occur in a reasonable amount of time.

We especially appreciate that the legislation allows for a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act as these funds are crucial to the maintenance of our roads and essential to our local schools. Since the County began receiving this funding in September 2001, both the County Road Fund and our local school district have each received a little over \$2.5 million, which was desperately needed to maintain county roads and continue with our outstanding educational system

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors support H.R. 1526 and we thank you for time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,



KEVIN CANN

Vice-Chairman

cc: Congressman McClintock
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California State Association of Counties