RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-446

MEETING: October 8, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

RE: Letter Supporting HR 3188

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Letter Supporting HR-3188 - The Yosemite Rim Fire Emergency Salvage Act. HR 3188 will expedite the planning and implementation of salvage timber sales as part of Forest Service and Department of the Interior restoration and rehabilitation activities for lands within the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park and Bureau of Land Management lands adversely impacted by the 2013 Rim Fire in California.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has authorized the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign letters that benefit the best interests 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:
HR 3188 Support  (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Rick Benson, County Administrator/CAO
RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
AYES: Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, Kevin Cann, John Carrier
NAYS: Lee Stetson
Honorable Tom McClintock
United States Congress Member
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: HR – 3188 – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman McClintock:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports HR – 3188 – The Yosemite Rim Fire Emergency Salvage Act, as it relates to the National Forest lands but not within Yosemite National Park. This measure will provide for the expedited salvage of fire-killed timber in the Stanislaus National Forest by waiving environmental regulations and litigation that often delay salvage operations until the timber becomes worthless.

Our rural county and surrounding National Forests have experienced the devastation of wild land fires. The most recent fire – the Yosemite Rim Fire has destroyed 400 square miles of precious forest land. Allowing the harvesting of the fire-killed timber on National Forest lands in the most expeditious manner will provide at least a minor benefit to arise from this disaster.

Well-meaning environmental regulations can sometimes stifle harvesting operations until the timber has become worthless, and it would only add to the tragedy of the Yosemite Rim Fire if the estimated one billion board feet of timber were allowed to go to waste. Moreover, allowing the expeditious harvesting of the fire-killed timber will provide a huge economic boost by providing employment opportunities at the local mills, timber trucking industry, and timber harvesters.

Thank you for sponsoring HR – 3188.

Sincerely,

KEVIN CANN
Vice Chairman

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