RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-38

MEETING: February 6, 2018

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Ratify Letter to US Forest Service

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Super-Insulated Green Building Technologies LLC utilizes woody biomass to produce green building materials, and is considering starting its business in Mariposa County. The funding from this grant would enable the company to initiate a light industrial production facility in the County.

As the epicenter of the tree mortality disaster, Mariposa County would be an ideal location for a company that requires wood to produce construction blocks out of shavings. Super-Insulated Green Building Technologies, LLC would utilize the excess of dead trees in Mariposa County while providing jobs and creating energy-efficient homes out of woody biomass that could help address the County's housing shortage.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board occasionally ratifies letters when necessary.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not ratify the letter, and direct staff to draft a letter withdrawing this letter.

ATTACHMENTS:
letter of support Mariposa_signed (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (R5)
1323 Club Drive Vallejo, CA 95492-1110
lswan01@fs.fed.us (707) 562-8917

January 7, 2018

Dear Mr. Swan,

On behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, this letter is to formally endorse the Super-Insulated Green Buildings Technologies, LLC proposal for the Wood Innovations Grant. An award in their favor would help address the catastrophic tree mortality disaster in our community, bring green industry and jobs to our county, and introduce building materials that would be resistant to the wildfires that are prevalent in our area.

Mariposa County is ground zero for drought- and bark beetle-induced tree mortality in California. Hundreds of thousands of trees have fallen victim to these plagues and there are not sufficient resources to transport the majority to wood-dependent industries with demand. Super-Insulated Green Buildings Technologies, LLC could turn disaster into opportunity by introducing an environmentally friendly industry into our county that utilizes woody biomass to create energy-efficient building materials that would also help address our county’s housing shortage.

We are impressed by Super-Insulated Green Buildings Technologies, LLC and their partnership with the University of California at Merced. With the support of the university and this grant, green energy building bricks would be two steps closer to the market and the potential for mass production that could bring much-needed professional jobs to our region.

Finally, our county, like many other Sierra foothill communities, is prone to wildfires. The Detwiler Fire in 2017 burned nearly 82,000 acres and devoured 74 homes in an already under-supplied housing market. We would welcome the production of fire-resistant building supplies in our county that could help minimize future losses.

For all of the reasons listed above, we ask that you give strong consideration to the Super-Insulated Green Buildings Technologies, LLC proposal.

Rosemarie Smallcombe, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors