RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-565

MEETING: October 1, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Letter of Support for HR 3043 to McClintock

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Federal lands make up a substantial portion of Mariposa County. These lands are not subject to local taxes, such as property taxes, that support mandated education, emergency services, infrastructure, law enforcement and health care services. The PILT program offers a partial offset of those revenues in support of the vital services mentioned. Though currently subject to the annual appropriations process, House Resolution 3043 would make the program permanent.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has routinely ratified letters of support for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

The Board approved a similar letter in support of H.R. 3043 on August 20, 2019. At that time, the Board requested a letter addressed to Congressman McClintock to be sent as well.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If the Board does not ratify the letter, it will be rescinded. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support at that time, which may not carry the same weight as a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
McClintock Letter HR3043 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
September 20, 2019

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Re: Support for the “Permanently Authorizing PILT Act” (H.R. 3043)

Dear Congressman McClintock,

On behalf of Mariposa County, which depends heavily on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, we write in support of H.R. 3043, which would permanently authorize the PILT program.

The federal government owns approximately half of the land in Mariposa County. While the County supports sustainable land conservation and uses for the benefit of our fellow Americans, untaxable federal land dramatically diminishes the County’s ability to support essential (and often mandated) services such as emergency response, public education, transportation, infrastructure, law enforcement and health care services.

PILT and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs partially offset losses in tax revenues for local governments and school districts in areas with substantial federal acreage. PILT has helped to provide stability for more than 1,850 counties in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Many of those jurisdictions, including representatives of Mariposa County, were in Washington, D.C., last week to show their support for this essential program.

We believe that PILT and SRS programs should be extended indefinitely with full funding every year. We are in full support of H.R. 3043 and are excited that it will, if passed, permanently authorize PILT and provide some stability to many of our vital services. We encourage your support for this item and future bills that secure revenue essential to maintaining public health, safety and wellness. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Miles Menetrey, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors