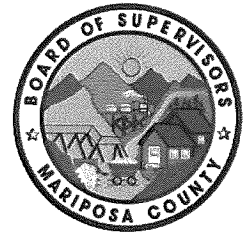


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-292

MEETING: May 25, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

RE: Approve a Letter of Support for the Proposed Solution to AB 1066

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for the proposed solution to AB 1066 by the California Sheep and Goat Producers; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The proposed solution will adopt administrative relief in accordance with a 2015 U.S. Department of Labor action which set the estimated hours worked by shearers at 48 hours, even though they are available on a continuous basis. Multiple federal courts have upheld this interpretation as both reasonable and supported by available evidence.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board routinely approves letters of support that it determines to be in the best interest of the county.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support which may not carry the weight of a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

AB Letter (PDF)

Letter from the Farm Bureau - 5-17-2021 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

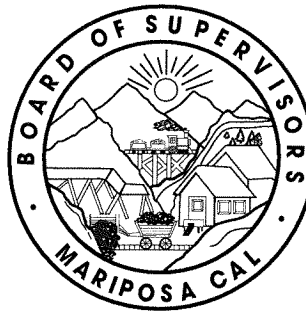
MOVER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 TOM SWEENEY
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 WAYNE FORSYTHE
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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May 25, 2021

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Senator Anna Caballero
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor:

The production of sheep and wool are important to the economy of California with the state's wool production ranking #1 and sheep inventory ranking #2 in the United States, and more than 3,500 family farms raising sheep and goats throughout California.

Sheep and goat production is uniquely nomadic requiring a mobile and skilled workforce of herders to care for and manage movement of flocks whether located in distant areas grazing agricultural land or serving as four-legged fire fighters in our forests and wildland-urban interface by reducing fire fuel vegetation.

Sheep and goat grazing aligns with Governor Newsom's Climate Change Executive Order (N-82-20) as a wildfire prevention tool which produces a net benefit in carbon sequestration and air quality, and is especially suited to enhance carbon neutrality in situations of rural-urban interface.

The economic and environmental benefits this industry provides California is in jeopardy because of the unintended consequences brought on by a newly adopted California law in 2016 (AB 1066) which affects overtime pay requirements of the agricultural sector, and which will increase sheep and goat herder pay by an economically unsustainable 50 percent.

Prior to adoption of this law, California herders were already the highest paid in the nation and paid as much as 80 percent more than herders in some other states.

In 2015 the federal Department of Labor determined that herder work hours cannot be tracked because of the remoteness of their work, and that 48 hours of work per week was a reasonable estimate, and further, federal courts have upheld this determination as both reasonable and well supported by available evidence.

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly urges you to use your administrative authority to adopt the federal weekly hours work standard for herders in California, to which overtime pay would apply as currently required in California statutes.

Sincerely,


Marshall Long,
Mariposa County Board Chair