

IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

_____ day _____, 2021

PRESENT: Supervisors

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL WEEKLY HOURS WORK STANDARD
FOR HERDERS IN CALIFORNIA**

The following resolution is hereby offered and read:

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, strongly urges Governor Newsom to use his 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.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution is hereby adopted:

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk

By: _____
County Counsel