

RESOLUTION NO. 21-129

RESOLUTION STATING THE BOARD'S OPPOSITION TO AN APPLICATION TO ALLOW THE TRANSPORTATION OF COAL BY TRAIN THROUGH MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, an anonymous corporation based in Wyoming has recently submitted paperwork to the federal Surface Transportation Board objecting to the Railbanking for the Great Redwood Trail and saying they intend to purchase the railroad; and

WHEREAS, it has been widely reported and corroborated that this secret corporation is intending to use the railroad to transport coal mined in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, this company intends to transport this coal across the state of California to Marin County, and then haul it north through Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt counties to the port of Humboldt; and

WHEREAS, coal is the single biggest contributor to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the burning of coal is responsible for nearly 50% of the carbon dioxide emissions worldwide, and accounts for over 70% of the greenhouse gas emissions from all electrical generation; and

WHEREAS, coal contributes to a staggering health crisis which experts estimate leads to over 13,000 premature deaths, 200,000 asthma attacks, and more than \$100 Billion in health care costs each year in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, according to railroad studies, somewhere between five hundred to two thousand pounds of coal and coal dust can escape from every single loaded train car; and

WHEREAS, loose coal can cause devastating impacts to our drinking water, watersheds and surrounding environment; and

WHEREAS, coal dust can cause devastating disease in humans and animals, cause spontaneous fires, and degrade and destabilize the rail bed; and

WHEREAS, the Russian and Eel Rivers supply drinking water to nearly one million people of Northern California, and habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors that hereby notifies the Surface Transportation Board of our strong opposition to this application and declare that should be rejected outright; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors encourages the Surface Transportation Board to grant the request of the North Coast Railroad Authority to railbank their rail line from Willits to Humboldt Bay.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Haschak, and carried this 14th day of September, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulheren, Haschak, Gjerdde, and Williams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

DAN GJERDE, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHRISTIAN M. CURTIS, County Counsel

BY: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board

Deputy

Deputy