



C O U N T Y A D M I N I S T R A T O R

SUSAN S. MURANISHI
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DONNA LINTON
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

October 23, 2013

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 ALAMEDA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM:
Opposition to any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the
current federal standards; and Support the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Alameda asking President Obama to end federal interference with the
municipal and state laws governing medical marijuana**

RECOMMENDATION:

The following legislative items were considered by the PAL (Personnel, Administration and Legislation) Board Committee at its meetings on October 7, 2013, and October 14, 2013, and are hereby recommended for your Board's approval. If approved, these items will be included as amendments to the County's 2013 Legislative Program.

1. Opposition to any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards
2. Support the Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda asking President Obama to end federal interference with the municipal and state laws governing medical marijuana

DISCUSSION:

1. There is concern that attempts are being made at the federal level to increase the federal standards for size, weight and allowable number of trailers beyond the capacity of existing road infrastructure. Bigger and heavier trucks cause greater acceleration of the deterioration of states' highways, roads, and bridges putting further pressure on local taxpayers to fund infrastructure. Investments in our county, state and federal systems have not kept up with the increased traffic levels. Current funding for roads and bridges across all government levels in the state is inadequate and investments by local governments have been curbed by cuts in municipal state aid, county state aid and a shrinking federal highway program fund.

The National Association of Counties (NACo), along with many county and municipal associations, strongly oppose all legislation that attempts to shift costs and liability of private business on to local

governments and threaten local control of local roads Longer Combination Vehicles (LCVs), have an 11 percent higher fatal accident involvement rate than single tractor trailers. Triples have poor stability performance and create a larger crash area when involved in an accident. Heavier tractor trailers have an increased risk of rollover because they have a higher center of gravity. Increasing truck weight likely will lead to brake maintenance problems and longer stopping distances. Larger trucks are harder to steer because of their rear axle. There are increased safety risks such as rollovers, stopping problems, and death in accidents involving these vehicles. These trucks are responsible for close to 2.4 deaths for every 100 million vehicle miles which is a 50 percent higher rate than smaller trucks.

The most recent effort to increase truck weight and size was defeated in 2012 by members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee during consideration of the House surface transportation legislation.

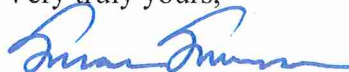
Supervisor Keith Carson is requesting opposition to any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight beyond the current federal standards because maintaining current federal truck size and weight standards on the Interstate System and imposing similar standards on the rest of the National Highway System would limit the increased risk of damage or deterioration of highways, roads and bridges and the associated costs with maintaining state and local highways.

2. Supervisor Keith Carson is requesting adoption of a resolution to ask President Obama to end federal interference on the municipal and state laws governing medical marijuana, to allow the states of Colorado and Washington to continue implementing laws that legalize the recreational use of marijuana, and respectfully request that President Obama begin a discussion about the potential benefits of reforming federal laws on marijuana use in all forms, including medicinal and recreational uses.

The State of California, through S.B. 420, has recognized the medical benefits of marijuana as an alternative treatment option for illnesses such as glaucoma, cancer, and AIDS by legalizing its use by qualified patients. 17 other states and the District of Columbia have also passed legislation legalizing medical marijuana, and Colorado and Washington have approved recreational use of marijuana.

Under the leadership of President Obama, the Department of Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal agencies have conducted large-scale targeted enforcements on medical marijuana dispensaries at the cost of billions of dollars annually. The lack of parity between federal, state, and local legislation on marijuana use complicates the enforcement and regulation of marijuana laws.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

SSM:LL:pkp

Leg/pal/10_07_13 and 10_14_13_agendas

c: Affected County Agencies/Departments
CAO Analysts
State and Federal Legislative Advocates
Board Committee Clerk

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, the State of California, through S.B. 420, has recognized the medical benefits of marijuana as an alternative treatment option for illnesses such as glaucoma, cancer, and AIDS by legalizing its use by qualified patients; and

WHEREAS, 17 other states, and the District of Columbia also passed legislation legalizing medical marijuana, and Colorado and Washington have approved recreational use of marijuana; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of President Obama, the Department of Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal agencies have conducted large-scale targeted enforcements on medical marijuana dispensaries at the cost of billions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities exist in the enforcement of laws on marijuana use; and

WHEREAS, over 825,000 Americans are in the criminal justice system annually for violating marijuana prohibitions and drug offenders are increasing conditions for prison overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, a considerable amount of law enforcement resources at the federal, state, and local levels are currently dedicated to the prosecution of marijuana users, and the amount of money spent on enforcing possession laws has increased by 30 percent in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, different levels of government, including local, state, and federal budgets face fiscal uncertainty for the future, and there are potential tax revenues from the subsequent taxation of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people have been killed in incidents related to the activities of transnational drug cartels, and marijuana constitutes half of the drugs smuggled by these cartels; and

WHEREAS, the lack of parity between federal, state, and local legislation on marijuana use complicates the enforcement and regulation of marijuana laws; and

WHEREAS, polls indicate growing public support for the legalization of marijuana, including for medicinal and recreational uses,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California does hereby ask President Obama to end federal interference on the municipal and state laws governing medical marijuana, as well as to allow the states of Colorado and Washington to continue implementing laws that legalize the recreational use of marijuana, and

FURTHERMORE, this Board respectfully requests that President Obama begin a discussion about the potential benefits of reforming federal laws on marijuana use in all forms, including medicinal and recreational uses.

THE FOREGOING was **PASSED** and **ADOPTED** by the following vote of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors this _____ day of _____ 2013, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

EXCUSED:

KEITH CARSON, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Donna R. Ziegler, County Counsel

By: _____
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy