

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, Lassen County is faced with a variety of economic challenges, including the loss of a major industry sector (timber), and that approximately 63% of the total land area in Lassen County is owned or controlled by a government agency.

WHEREAS, Agriculture and ranching are somewhat steady industries in Lassen County and having a gross production value of \$38,503,812; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. sheep inventory reached its historical high in 1942 at 56.2 million animals but has since decreased by 62%; and

WHEREAS, the sheep industry in Lassen County has fluctuated greatly from approximately 40,000 lambs in 1944, as reported in the 1944 Lassen County Crop Report with a value of \$400,000, to its current level of 8,538 head in 2022 with a total value of approximately \$1,843,655; and

WHEREAS, foreign imports of lamb and wool into the U.S. have increased 543% over that same time period and now account for 74% of the domestic market; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has historically protected domestic sheep production from global market distortions through tariffs as it has for other domestic agricultural industries; and

WHEREAS, tariffs have been imposed by the U.S. since 1890 to protect the domestic sheep industry, but have not been adjusted since 1930.

WHEREAS, the domestic sheep industry must deal with market distortions such as stringent restrictions on predator control and devalued exchange rates abroad; and

WHEREAS, animal production is a major contribution to the U.S. economy, as sustainable local food system, but sheep also perform important environmental purposes by grazing and browsing through noxious and other undesirable and invasive weed species and by reducing excess vegetation in fire prone areas such as Lassen County; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen respectfully requests Congress to work with the Biden administration to revitalize and support the U.S. sheep industry by adjusting tariffs and import quotas to ensure the viability and competitiveness of the domestic industry and for all of the associated economic and environmental benefits provided within the United States of America.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen, State of California, held on the 28th day of November 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTION NO.

ABSENT:

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LASSEN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:

JULIE BUSTAMANTE

Clerk of the Board

BY:

MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board

I, MICHELE YDERRAGA, Deputy Clerk of the Board of the Board of Supervisors, County of Lassen, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the said Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on the 28th day of November 2023.

Deputy Clerk of the County of Lassen
Board of Supervisors