



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-2

For the meeting of: August 18, 2015

Date: July 29, 2015
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Ryan Sundberg
Subject: Letter of Opposition to SB 762 (Wolk) – Counties: Competitive Bidding: Best Value: Pilot Program

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Char to sign the letter of opposition.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: SB 762 contains provisions that will limit the counties ability to utilize local contractors by requiring a workforce that has graduated from an apprenticeship program approved by the State of California Division of Apprenticeship programs. Humboldt County does not have a large number of apprenticeship programs, and the majority of the construction workforce receive training in other ways. The county is concerned that impacts of SB762 will lead to a number of local contractors not qualifying to bid on local construction projects and cause unemployment. In its current form, Humboldt County is sending a letter opposing SB 762 unless it can be amended to address the serious concerns outlined above.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Opposition.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent
☐ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

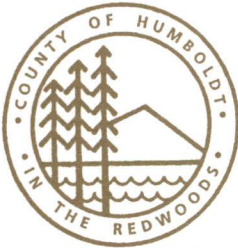
Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Lovelace Seconded by Supervisor Sundberg
Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: Aug 18, 2015
By: Kathy Hayes
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

August 18, 2015

Assembly Member Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, California 95814
916.319.3958 phone
916.319.3959 fax

**SUBJECT: SB 762 (Wolk), Counties: Competitive Bidding: Best Value: Pilot Program -
Oppose unless amended**

Dear Assemblyman Maienschein:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in opposition to SB 762. As a County, we strive to keep the cost of our expensive infrastructure projects down, and maintain as many local construction jobs as possible. For these reasons, we must oppose SB 762 unless amended.

This bill contains provisions that limit our ability to utilize contractors by requiring a workforce that has graduated from an apprenticeship program approved by the State of California Division of Apprenticeship Standards. There are many ways to train our State's construction workforce and we have partnered with those contractors for many years completing a number of well-built, well-priced projects.

We are concerned the impacts of this legislation will lead to a number of local contractors not qualifying to bid on our construction projects. Our community does not have a large number of apprenticeship programs, as such; the majority of the workforce received their training in other ways. If the State's goal is to mandate graduates from apprenticeship programs, then the legislation needs to be amended to allow for time for the workforce to transition over to meet these new mandates. Also, removing barriers to the creation of additional apprenticeship programs in the State would assist the workforce in meeting realistic training goals.

Secondly, because a majority of the local workforce we partner with today will not meet the requirements laid out in SB 762 and other related bills, our local taxpayers will not be able to build the very projects their taxes have financed. Utilizing local workers and employers is a noble goal for every elected official. If SB 762 is approved without amendments, out of town contractors in communities with access to apprenticeship programs will come into our community and bring those workers with them, causing local unemployment.

We are certain that limiting our county's ability to contract with qualified firms, and utilizing a local workforce was not the intent of SB 762 or any of the other related bills. Therefore, we urge you to join us in opposing this bill unless it can be amended to address the problems that we have described above.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Jim Wood