

4/121/2026

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission

Letter of Resignation

To: Jim Glover, Chair

Members of the Commission

Natalie Arroyo, Supervisor

From: Peter H. Pennekamp

Dear Jim, Natalie and fellow Commissioners,

Please accept my resignation from the Humboldt County Human Rights Commission.

My resignation is with regret. I find the ongoing members of the commission to be deeply committed, highly principled and the leadership beyond reproach. I also find much encouragement in the recent, younger and more diverse additions to the commission. This is an important commission and holds an important position in Humboldt County government.

I am resigning due to lack of time to be a responsible commissioner and play a meaningful role. I also find the historical role of the commission limited relative to the extraordinary times we are in and the many attacks on human rights by our own national government.

For what it is worth, if I were to remain on the commission I would be arguing for a plan of action that begins with some analysis of who is at risk and how

best to use the limited resources of the commission to draw attention to the conditions they face.

The Humboldt County Human Rights Commission to my mind could and should argue for research into the conditions of our residents who are being targeted by both the federal government and other abusers, be a forum for the release of that information and a lively platform for the conscience of the community. This is not inconsistent with the current commitments of the commission, but a more concentrated focus and intention.

The list of those under attack is long and each part should be taken seriously and considered in the light of current events.

The government of our country is ramping up targeted attacks on women, Black people, immigrants, LGBTQ people, government workers, but also opposition conservatives, political dissenters and others. As a decades long supporter of Palestinian rights and statehood, I am still appalled by the rise of anti-Semitism in Humboldt County. We live in an intolerant time, antithetical to the observance of human rights of groups we do not personally agree with.

To reiterate, I am resigning because of limited band width and embarrassment with my own limited ability to participate, not lack of support of the commission and commissioners.

With warmth and respect,

Peter H. Pennekamp