

November 3, 2014

Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt
Eureka, California

Carole Beaton and I oppose Rex Bohn's proposed resolution to add the words "In God We Trust" to the wall of the Supervisors' Chambers.

"In God We Trust" was proclaimed the "national motto" in 1956, at the height of Cold War hysteria. For 174 years before that, the de facto national motto was *E pluribus unum*.

Bohn's resolution is endorsed by a group of conservative Christians in Bakersfield called "In God We Trust - America, Inc." who want to see the "national motto" enshrined in the seat of every city, county and state government in America. In fact, Bohn's resolution calls for the Clerk of the Board to mail a copy of the resolution to these folks in Bakersfield.

The timing of Bohn's proposal- coming barely a month after the Humboldt Superior Court entered judgment against the City of Eureka banning its participation in prayer breakfasts- suggests that Bohn's purpose in bringing it forth is to inject religion into county government. This unlawful objective runs the risk of an expensive and divisive civil lawsuit against the County.

Please reject this ill-advised resolution.

Respectfully,

Peter Martin