

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
November 10, 2015

**“For all items *NOT* on the agenda”**

**(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)**

**Voluntary Sign-In Sheet**  
**(Public Appearances – 1:30 pm)**

1. Charles L. Ciancio
2. Jeanette Hurst
- 3.
4. Charlie Bee
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Date: 11/3/15

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and others

Subject: Real World Realities

My thoughts on how the voting minority is running things is provided in accompanying handout. If you want to know more of what I think give me a call. You might learn something.

I believe I am part of the voting group who does not run things. With demise of the timber industry, improper storage and use of north coast waters, fight against east-west railroad not based on factual information, lack of use of Humboldt Bay, speculation, theory, and protectionism stopping full and proper use of natural resources, and expecting tourism to provide a viable rural economy, I do not expect things to change in Humboldt County and other rural areas.

Maybe those in control need to listen to someone other than those advising them (polls, media, legalese, those with money and power, politicians, and unaccountable and inexperienced regulators (who make up the Fourth Branch of Government)). I believe ignoring me and the many truths I bring to you, is not going to be good for Humboldt County and Rural America.

**Charles L. Ciancio**

**An old tired field forester, who has lived the real world no one gives much attention)**

California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) #317

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**Taxpaying, family, low to low middle income, and producing folks especially in rural areas who are too busy living their lives to realize what is happening to them and routinely do not vote are being ignored.**

Everything we do in this country depends somewhere and in some way on a shrinking voting group made-up of taxpaying, family, low to low middle income, and producing folks especially in rural areas who are too busy living their lives to realize what is happening to them and to vote. This bunch of folks are ignored, frequently treated like dirt, and routinely not included in polling by those in control of the minority vote

Media, politicians, legal process, theorists, speculators, protectionists, ones with money and power, and

**Regulators**

(who make-up an unaccountable and inexperienced Fourth Branch of Government) control polls and the vote

Uncontrolled fire, full and proper use of natural resources, proper storage of water, uneconomical rural economies, and full and proper use of natural resources controls the lives of humans and many species, and this control is heading us humans and many species to a bad place.

**Why Trump can win**

As a working taxpaying, family, low to low middle income, working, producing person especially in Rural America busy living my life know I will not get near Trump.

I can not trust Hillary  
I am anyone but Hillary

I like Trump because he is a doer

**I want a doer !**

(Even a doer that makes honest mistakes)

Polls, media, politicians, legal process folks, protectionists, and regulators (I call the Fourth Branch of Government) have those in control ignoring working, family, taxpaying, low to low middle income, producers (farmers, ranchers, timber producers and others in rural areas) which provide the basis for everything we have

**Charles L. Ciancio**

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## SSI/SSP Points

- the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program assists blind, disabled, and elderly individuals and supplements the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program
- 1.3 million elderly & Californians living with disabilities have incomes of \$888 per month, well below the poverty level of \$981
- The SSI portion of the monthly payment, \$733 is paid through the Social Security Administration, while the remaining SSP is paid through the State Supplemental Payment of \$156
- 6,515 elderly and people with disabilities receive SSI/SSP in Humboldt County
- The SSP portion (\$156) has not received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) since Fiscal Year 2009-10
- With the high cost of rent throughout the State and limited number of subsidies provided through HUD and other programs, many not receiving housing assistance are paying 70% to 80% of the monthly SSI/SSP payment towards housing costs, leaving very little to cover food and basic necessities
- Because within the SSP portion of the monthly payment the state contributes \$10 towards food SSI/SSP recipients are not eligible for CalFresh (Food Stamps)

I am here on behalf of the community in conjunction with other activities happening up and down the state to ask our Board of Supervisors to support and encourage our state representatives and Governor Brown to increase the SSP portion of the monthly payment from \$156 to \$249 bringing the SSI/SSP total monthly payment to \$981 the federal poverty level and reinstate the yearly COLA to apply to the SSP.

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Warren:

The undersigned organizations strongly support S. 2251, the Seniors and Veterans Emergency ("SAVE") Benefits Act. We are happy that this legislation, introduced with eighteen of your colleagues, would provide a one-time payment to Social Security beneficiaries, disabled veterans, SSI recipients and others in recognition that they will not receive an automatic cost of living adjustment ("COLA") in 2016.

Without this important legislation, millions of Social Security beneficiaries, disabled veterans, SSI recipients and others will get no inflationary adjustment in 2016. These Americans overwhelmingly live on modest, fixed incomes, and will tell you that the cost of their medical care, prescription drugs, food, housing and other necessities of life continue to increase.

Social Security benefits are indexed to inflation so its benefits maintain their purchasing power when the price of goods and services go up. But the formula that is used under-measures what seniors and people with disabilities actually spend. Even though official government data shows core goods and services are up about 2%, seniors who usually get an adjustment in January will not see an extra dime next year.

The SAVE Benefits Act provides retirees, veterans and other beneficiaries on reduced incomes a one-time payment in lieu of a COLA to help buy the food, medicine and housing they need to get by. Additionally, the legislation will take steps to strengthen the Social Security system as a whole and address, in a small way, rising income inequality by closing the so-called performance pay tax loophole.

Seniors have earned their Social Security through a lifetime of work and veterans through service to our nation. Annual cost of living adjustments ensure these modest benefits do not erode in value. The SAVE Benefits Act provides a lifeline for today's beneficiaries until Congress enacts a more accurate measure of inflation's impact on the purchasing power of Social Security beneficiaries.

Thank you for your leadership in crafting a solution to the problem of no COLA in 2016 as a result of an inaccurate cost of living measure. We look forward to working with you to pass a permanent solution to this problem and to strengthen and expand Social Security to meet a looming retirement income crisis and other challenges facing the nation.

Sincerely,

2-1-1 Humboldt, Humboldt Community Access and Resource Center  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
American Federation of Government Employees  
B'nai B'rith  
California Council of Churches IMPACT  
California Hunger Action Coalition

California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA)  
California Partnership  
Campaign for America's Future  
Center for Community Change Action  
CREDO  
Daily Kos  
Democracy for America  
Economic Opportunity Institute (EOI)  
Educate. Advocate.  
Food for People  
Friends in Deed  
Hunger Action LA  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles  
Justice in Aging  
MoveOn.org  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM)  
National Organization for Women  
National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives (NOSSCR)  
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+  
Project Angel Food  
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action (PSARA)  
Resources for Independent Living  
Senior and Disability Action  
Social Security Works  
Strengthen Social Security Coalition  
The Arc of the United States  
United Steelworkers (USW)  
VOTE Vets  
Western Center on Law & Poverty

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the County of Humboldt with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a resolution by the County of Humboldt with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program assists blind, disabled, and elderly individuals and supplements the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program; and

WHEREAS, State Supplemental Payment amounts are adjusted based on living arrangement, marital status, status as a minor, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the State Supplement Payment (SSP) the amount of \$156 has not been provided since the Fiscal Year 2009-10 State Budget; and

WHEREAS, many individuals who depend on this grant as a source of income cannot meet their basic needs and are forced to make painful decisions regarding paying rent and utilities, purchasing food, or medical supplies not covered by Health Insurance; and

WHEREAS, there are 6,515 individuals in Humboldt County that depend on the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment program; and

WHEREAS, over 70% of local SSI/SSP payments goes towards rent and utilities leaving little for healthy foods and basic needs; and

WHEREAS, 45% of users of the Food for People in Eureka receive SSI/SSP and are not eligible for CalFresh (Food Stamps); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, that the adoption of this Resolution, the County of Humboldt hereby includes its support of the State of California Legislators and Governor to increase the State Supplementary Payment amounts to meet the federal poverty level to elderly, blind, and/or disabled individuals to be readjusted and increased annually.