



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Sept. 23, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1430 (Bennett) – Recorder Fee Stabilization

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, we write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 1430 (Bennett), relating to Recorder Fee Stabilization.

The County Recorder provides document recording services under a fee-for-service model. The base fee for recording and indexing instruments, papers, and notices was last adjusted in 2010. That fee was designed to fully fund the recording function so counties could avoid drawing upon general fund resources. However, the fee structure does not account for inflationary pressures or mandated increases in the state minimum wage.

These rising costs have created significant budgetary challenges. The established fee no longer covers the full cost of the recording function, forcing counties to rely on general fund subsidies. This diverts resources away from other essential public services, including public safety, public health, and general county administration, all of which are already under increasing strain.

Without adjustment, counties will face reductions in staff and limitations on public counter hours. Such impacts risk slowing the timely recording of real estate transactions and other essential documents, which directly affects local economic stability and recovery.

AB 1430 ensures that recording services remain fully funded, responsive to the public, and staffed by an adequately trained workforce. By updating the base fee structure, this bill will allow counties to maintain the standards of timeliness and quality that Californians expect. For these reasons, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges your support of AB 1430 (Bennett).

Sincerely,

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Second District Supervisor

Rex Bohn
First District Supervisor

Mike Wilson
Third District Supervisor

Natalie Arroyo
Fourth District Supervisor

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