

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF AMADOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR NEWSOM  
TO USE HIS ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY  
TO ADOPT THE FEDERAL WEEKLY HOURS  
WORK STANDARDS FOR HERDERS IN  
CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 21-087

WHEREAS, the production of sheep and wool are important to the economy of California with the state's wool production ranking #1 and sheep inventory ranking #2 in the United States, and more than 3,500 family farms raising sheep and goats throughout California, and

WHEREAS, sheep and goat production is uniquely nomadic requiring a mobile and skilled workforce of herders to care for and manage movement of flocks whether located in distant areas grazing agricultural land or serving as four-legged fire fighters in our forests and wildland-urban interface by reducing fire fuel vegetation, and

WHEREAS, sheep and goat grazing aligns with Governor Newsom's Climate Change Executive Order (N-82-20) as a wildfire prevention tool which produces a net benefit in carbon sequestration and air quality, and is especially suited to enhance carbon neutrality in situations of rural-urban interface, and

WHEREAS, the economic and environmental benefits this industry provides California is in jeopardy because of the unintended consequences brought on by a newly adopted California law in 2016 (AB 1066) which affects overtime pay requirements of the agricultural sector, and which will increase sheep and goat herder pay by an economically unsustainable 50 percent, and

WHEREAS, prior to adoption of this law, California herders were already the highest paid in the nation and paid as much as 80 percent more than herders in some other states, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the federal Department of Labor determined that herder work hours cannot be tracked because of the remoteness of their work, and that 48 hours of work per week was a reasonable estimate, and further, federal courts have upheld this determination as both reasonable and well supported by available evidence.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Amador County Board of Supervisors strongly urges Governor Newsom to use his administrative authority to adopt the federal weekly hours work standard for herders in California, to which overtime pay would apply as currently required in California statutes.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 22<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Brian Oneto, Patrick Crew, Richard M. Forster, Jeff Brown, Frank U. Axe  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

  
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Frank U. Axe, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the  
Board of Supervisors, Amador County,  
California

  
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Deputy