

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## *PROCLAMATION*

### COMMENDING JOHN HARPER FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, following 32 years of dedicated service in his role as University of California Cooperative Extension, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor and County of Lake Director, John Harper officially retired on July 1, 2023, but continued to serve as interim director of UCCE to ensure the successful transition of his County Director successor; and

**WHEREAS**, John Harper, known as the "Ed Sheeran of sheep shearing" has run California's only five-day sheep shearing school for over 27 years at the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center and various private ranches. This program is internationally acclaimed with a waiting list of over 1,000; and

**WHEREAS**, his other contributions include learning how to write code in 1991 to create the university's first websites for livestock and natural resources and was an early adopter social media, which earned him a Silver Award in 2011 from the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, his contributions to water quality research have been significant, including the development of the first rangeland water-quality ranch plan in California and the Rangeland Water Quality Planning Short Course; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been recognized with multiple awards for his outstanding contributions to rangeland management, water quality, and agricultural education, including the Western Extension Directors Association Award of Excellence and the Society for Range Management's Outstanding Achievement Award-Stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, John Harper continues to contribute to the community through his emeritus status with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and his ongoing mentorship of University of California Cooperative Extension County Director and Academic Advisors in Mendocino and Lake counties, as well as continuing the sheep shearing school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Lake County Board of Supervisors hereby commends John Harper for his exceptional service and dedication to the agricultural community, his innovative contributions to livestock and natural resources management, and his lasting impact on the lives of many through education and mentorship.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

ATTEST: SUSAN PARKER  
Clerk to the Board

COUNTY OF LAKE

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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Chair, Board of Supervisors