



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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April 4, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 707 (Aguiar-Curry) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

We, the Lake County Board of Supervisors, write in support of AB 707, your bill to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake. This important bill will contribute to environmental gains in the region and local economic development.

Lake County is proud to be home to Clear Lake, both the largest natural freshwater lake in California and the oldest natural lake in North America. Clear Lake is an essential component to the Lake County economy. As a cornerstone of local tourism and water recreation industries, the maintenance of the lake is directly related to the wellbeing of the local community and business climate. Moreover, Clear Lake has enriched the lives many County residents, offering comfort and inspiration to a community that has faced profound challenges.

Recently, Clear Lake has been suffering from various contaminants contributing to the poor quality of the water and health of the watershed. The water contains unnaturally high levels of mercury and an overabundance of surface algae and cyanobacteria. These factors deteriorate the quality of the water and threaten aquatic life. The degree to which the lake has become polluted has resulted in significant reductions to the County's local tourism industry and overall economy. Already an impoverished county, Lake County cannot afford to risk the further deterioration of Clear Lake.

Currently, there is no State body tasked with managing the clean-up of Clear Lake. AB 707 would fix this by establishing the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake and setting requirements for its membership. By requiring the Committee to meet quarterly and to submit an annual report on their work, AB 707 will establish an accountability standard for the project and put Clear Lake on a tangible path towards recovery. Considering the dire economic state of Lake County coupled with the neglected condition of Clear Lake, a structured approach towards a solution is critical.

For these reasons, we strongly support a **YES** vote on **AB 707**.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Smith, Chair
District 2

Moke Simon
District 1

Jim Steele
District 3

Tina Scott
District 4

Rob Brown
District 5