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Clear Lake Campground

Chief Executive Officer
Melissa Fulton

August 5, 2020

**Board of Supervisors
County of Lake
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453**

RE: Appeal of Bioenergy Production System at 7130 Red Hills Rd, Kelseyville

Dear Lake County Board of Supervisors,

We were greatly disappointed to see the decision to approve the Bioenergy plant was appealed. Innovative new industries are something the Lake County Chamber of Commerce has always promoted and will continue to do so. The fact that this business was also using waste from fire prevention projects makes it even more attractive to us.

The first paragraph in the appeal states that they would support such a project in a different location. This is always the statement from NIMBY opponents, "we like it but don't like it in our back yard". As Chair of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and a real estate broker who has tried to locate properties for several solar companies, I have experienced this reaction many times. Alternative energy projects need to be located very close to substations due to the requirements of power lines. The further away the greater chance the power lines will not be adequate. Also, the project is located close to the Cobb-Loch Lomond area which will hopefully be more carefully managed in the future generating material for the project. A destination for waste is very important. The fact that this facility is located near a substation AND raw materials makes it an ideal location.

The second paragraph claims the project was "fast tracked". This is the first time we have ever heard the term "fast track" associated with a Use Permit. It took the project over a year to get to a hearing and staff carefully vetted this operation during that time. We are confident and supportive of their recommendation for approval.

Since this project is located in the Red Hills Area, noise, dust, smoke, trucks, spray drift and other inconveniences are accepted by local residents. This is part of life if you live in a wine and vineyard region. Easily the biggest source of air pollution from smoke and fugitive dust this year was Chamber Member Beckstoffer's vineyard conversion at the corner of Hwy 281 and Hwy 29. As far as we know, there were no complaints filed on that project. The Right to Farm ordinance approved by the County of Lake several years ago is applicable to these situations.



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The owners of the Bloenergy project have not publicly complained about this to our knowledge, and it seems disingenuous for anyone in the wine industry to complain about the trivial amount of dust this project may produce while defending vineyard conversions. Lake County's Right to Farm Ordinance was written to protect all forms of agriculture, forestry included.

There were no scientific or factual arguments in the appeal letter. The gist of it seemed to be that the Red Hills AVA Stakeholders fear this small plant may affect their grape vines. If this position becomes the new norm, that once a vineyard is planted near you that you immediately lose property rights because of it, the wine industry will start losing the great popularity it currently has. Renewable energy and agriculture can easily coexist, and we urge the BOS to deny the appeal so the project can move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Dutcher", written over a horizontal line.

Bobby Dutcher, Chair
Government Affairs Committee
Lake County Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Terre Logsdon, Environmental Director, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Thomas Jordan, Tribal Administrator
Scott DeLeon, Community Development Interim Director
Lake County Chamber Board of Directors