



Legislation Text

File #: 24-653, Version: 1

Memorandum

Date: June 11, 2024

To: The Honorable Lake County Board of Supervisors

From: UC Cooperative Extension

Subject: Adopt Proclamation Commending John Harper for 32 Years of Service and Dedication to the Agricultural Community

Executive Summary:

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 11th day of June 2024.

If not budgeted, fill in the blanks below only:

Estimated Cost: _____ Amount Budgeted: _____ Additional Requested: _____ Future Annual Cost: _____

Consistency with Vision 2028 (check all that apply):

☐ Not applicable

- ☐ Well-being of Residents
- ☐ Economic Development
- ☐ Community Collaboration

- ☐ Public Safety
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Business Process Efficiency

- ☐ Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Recovery
- ☐ County Workforce
- ☐ Clear Lake

Recommended Action: Adopt Proclamation Commending John Harper for 32 Years of Service and Dedication to the Agricultural Community