



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION URGING CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO USE ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S FEDERAL WEEKLY WORK STANDARD OF 48 HOURS FOR HERDERS IN CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, the production of sheep and wool are important to the economy of California with wool production ranking #1 and sheep inventory ranking #2 in the United States, and over 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 from the passage of Assembly Bill 1066 (Gonzales, et al.) adopted in 2016 by impacting overtime pay requirements of the agricultural sector that 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 HEREBY RESOLVED, that the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors urges California Governor Newsom to use his administrative authority to adopt the Department of Labor's federal weekly work standard of 48 hours for herders in California, to which overtime pay would apply as currently required in California statutes.