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COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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April 26, 2024

Senator Brian Dahle
1021 O Street, Suite 7230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 1009, as introduced, Dahle – Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery: Lease - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Dahle:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 1009, and to express our support for the Bill. Passage and adoption of this measure would authorize the Director of General Services, with the consent of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to lease at no cost or nominal cost a portion of the Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery to the Mt. Shasta Museum Association for a term not to exceed 25 years.

Currently, protocols established by the Department of General Services limits the Department of Fish and Wildlife authority to lease facilities below market rates or for periods exceeding five years. The Mount Shasta Sisson Museum Association, Inc. was formed in 1979 when the State Fish Hatchery building became available and due to an inspiring amount of community support, the museum was opened to the public shortly after. Since then, operations have been continued and the museum has been donation-based, self-supported, mostly volunteer-operated. The museum webpage states that volunteers donate over 14,000 hours of their time annually to ensure operations continue to share social, culture, and natural history of the area with the local population, student groups, and travelers. With the rapid increase in market rates, it is anticipated that the museum would not be able to sustain the foreseeable expense increase of the new lease.

If implemented, SB 1009 will support the local community by allowing the museum to continue operations that are focused on educational and cultural growth. Senator Dahle has been quoted saying: “Preserving and safeguarding this historical treasure is crucial to ensure its continued contribution to the community's educational and cultural growth. Additionally, it is essential to maintain the museum's accessibility to visitors worldwide so that they can appreciate its value and significance. The museum welcomes nearly 14,000 visitors annually." We wholeheartedly agree with this statement.

This Bill also includes provisions that will require the Mount Shasta Museum Association to continue their current operations by permitting reasonable public access to the facility, to obtain and maintain liability insurance for the leased portion of the facilities, and to maintain the leased portion of the facilities at all times.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and for your support of Siskiyou County.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
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Michael N. Kobseff
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Brandon Criss	Ed Valenzuela	Michael Kobseff	Nancy Ogren	Ray Haupt
District 1	*District 2*	*District 3*	*District 4*	*District 5*