

Memorandum Date: June 3, 2011
Order Date: June 8, 2011

TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Administration, Intergovernmental Relations
PRESENTED BY: Alex Cuyler, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: National Association of Counties Draft Resolution(s)

I. MOTION

Move to submit two related resolutions to the National Association of Counties regarding concepts to increase logging on federal lands for consideration at their summer conference in Portland.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The National Association of Counties seeks resolutions from the nations counties in order to fully develop their legislative and policy platforms. This packet outlines two resolution relating to increasing logging on federal lands, one related to findings of domestic declaration of emergency and one related to international humanitarian aid packages.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

- Lane County is a member in good standing of the National Association of Counties.
- The Board recently took action to be a partial sponsor of the annual conference of the National Association of Counties, to be held July 15-19, in Portland.
- The Board submitted resolutions to NaCo for the past two conferences.

B. Policy Issues

The issue of federal lands management is one of the top priorities for the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

C. Board Goals

Active involvement with legislative issues. NaCo resolutions are a relatively easy way for Lane County to advance its federal agenda.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

- The undertaking of any legislative change will require human resources which the County already has in place.
- The National Association of Counties conference requires a registration fee, and staff are scheduled to attend.

E. Analysis

Item A.) Domestic finding of emergency

The **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** is codified as 42 USC 5121 – 5207. It outlines how the nation is to respond to disaster events and creates the framework for how local, state, and federal governments interact, receive assistance, establish governance, etc. It further includes provisions for how reconstruction materials are procured, which facilities are prioritized for reconstruction, and how environmental laws are to be followed. Relating to federal forest management, there is a provision that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to speed up timber sales (however, the US Code language it points to have since been repealed).

The NaCo Resolution will propose to amend this Act such that federal timber be elevated as a priority building material, and that the Act be further amended to actually allow the Secretary to do what the initial act intended, i.e., speed the sale of timber to market after declaration of emergency.

Item B. International Assistance

It is expected that the United States State Department will be involved with a formal offer of humanitarian assistance to Japan, once a final reconstruction plan is developed by the Japanese Government.

The NaCo Resolution regarding this action will propose that value added timber originating from federal land in the Pacific NW be included in this package, in accordance with existing forest plans.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt these Resolutions and direct that they be submitted to the proper NaCo policy committee for consideration at their July meeting in Portland.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Resolutions are due to be submitted to NaCo by June 15, 2011.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

It is recommended that the Board identify one of its members to follow these Resolutions through the NaCo process, or direct that the Administrator follow these Resolutions through the process, and report back to the Board on the outcome.

VII: ATTACHMENT

Attachment A is the domestic finding of emergency resolution and Attachment B is the international assistance package resolution.

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. IN THE MATTER PROPOSING A POLICY RESOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED SUMMER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD JULY 15-19, 2011 IN PORTLAND, OREGON.

WHEREAS, Lane County is a member in good standing of the National Association of Counties; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties provides essential services to the nation's 3068 counties and advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has a specific resolutions review procedure whereby it determines policy positions on a wide variety of county issues; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has successfully developed National Association of Counties resolutions on a variety of issues in the past; and

WHEREAS, Staff have created one draft resolution regarding a domestic assistance related concept that would, after a declaration of emergency, increase the flow of federal timber to the affected area for the purpose of domestic reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Staff have created a second draft resolution regarding an international assistance related concept that would increase the flow of manufactured wood products from federal timber to Japan for the purpose or reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's abundant forest lands can produce timber resources that affected areas will need in order to rebuild; and

WHEREAS, there is one billion board feet of lumber legally allotted to be harvested in the Pacific Northwest under the Northwest Forest Plan; and

WHEREAS, at the harvest levels envisioned by the Northwest Forest Plan, it is estimated that 30,000 new jobs would be created in the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, federal dollars allocated for disaster relief would benefit schools, roads, and law enforcement in counties with federal forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the draft resolutions are attached to this resolution as Attachments A and B.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Lane County Board of Commissioners agrees to the resolution proposing amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act such that it includes provisions to require domestic reconstruction materials to originate from federal forest lands currently managed under the Northwest Forest Plan as outlined in Attachment A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lane County Board of Commissioners agrees to the resolution proposing to include manufactured wood products in any aid package to the nation of Japan as outlined in Attachment B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Association of Counties as a draft resolution for consideration by the National Association of Counties at their regularly scheduled summer conference in Portland, Oregon.

DATED this _____ day of June, 2011

Faye Stewart, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners