

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

A-8

From: Reed <rnsnsn@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 9:25 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Tom Widroe
Subject: Letter of Opposition - Please distribute to BOS



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Clerk of the Board
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

I have attached a letter in opposition to Administrative Agenda Item A-8 (End Fracking and Dangerous Drilling) scheduled for the March 16 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Please distribute it to Chair Nelson, the Supervisors, and related Staff.

Thank You.

Roy Reed President
Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association

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Clerk of the Board
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Ref: Administrative Agenda Item A-8, March 16, 2021

“Consider recommendation regarding a letter of support for SB 467 (End Fracking and Dangerous Drilling)

Dear Chair Nelson and Supervisors:

As President of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association, I am writing to express our staunch opposition to your proposed action of sending a letter of support for Senate Bill 467, otherwise known as “End Fracking and Dangerous Drilling”.

Further, as supporters of transparency and prudence in government, we are disappointed by your choice to embed this critical item in the Administrative Agenda of your meeting rather than to include it as a Public Hearing which would afford it the open and robust discussion which is clearly warranted.

Santa Barbara County's petroleum industry has, for generations, provided a significant contribution to the County's economy and tax base, and continues to do so. Further, it provides badly-needed head-of-household jobs which are vital to hundreds of local families. SB 467 represents a great threat to the economic welfare of Santa Barbara County families who depend on the petroleum industry, to say nothing of these who depend on oil royalties for supplemental income, many of whom are local farmers and ranchers. In particular, many ranchers depend on oil royalties to bolster their income and to avoid the need to convert to higher-intensity agriculture such as grapes or row crops with their attendant loss of habitat.

While bills such as AB 467 offer great lip service to "just transition", the reality is that the remediation jobs they promise would be too low in number and of short duration, leaving the displaced workers and their families subject to financial loss and suffering which would remain long after the empty promises of "just transition" have been forgotten.

Finally, we are disturbed that your proposed letter of support would create the illusion that AB 467 is supported by the majority of Santa Barbara County residents. As you must recall, when last offered the opportunity to address the issue, County voters resoundingly voted to defeat County Measure P in 2014, which was nearly identical to the bans contained in AB 467.

In the end, we at SBCTA feel it would be far more appropriate for the Board and Staff to utilize taxpayer-provided resources for vital governmental actions rather than what appears to be political posturing to appease an activist minority. We therefore request that you do not approve this proposed action.

Roy Reed
President
Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association

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