

RESOLUTION NO. 2606

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, DESIRING TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT THE ATTACHED ARIZONA LEAGUE OF CITIES & TOWNS' RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ENACT EFFECTIVE AND LARGE-SCALE FOREST RESTORATION EFFORTS FOR ARIZONA AND OTHER WESTERN FORESTS TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH AND REDUCE THE RISKS FROM CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES.

(SUPPORTING LEAGUE'S HEALTHY FORESTS RESOLUTION)

WHEREAS, in the Western United States there are millions of acres of diseased, dying, and overgrown forests that have created a widespread forest health problem; and

WHEREAS, the poor condition of these forests has dramatically increased the effects of insect infestation, understory overgrowth, and unnatural fire conditions; and

WHEREAS, the forest health problem is widespread and is affecting wildlife habitat, watershed management, and increasing the dangers to human life and property; and

WHEREAS, while there have been some small-scale forest restoration efforts, prescribed by existing state and federal policies, overall forest health is rapidly declining; and

WHEREAS, new policies are needed to initiate cost-effective and large-scale restorations to address the growing forest health problem; and

WHEREAS, because state and federal financial resources are currently limited, the use of commercial operations should be considered as a means of providing cost-effective forest restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Forest Service data indicates that growth of Western forests exceeds removals by three-fold; and

WHEREAS, without large-scale forest health treatments, events associated with high-risk forests will continue to cause severe social, economic, and ecological impacts; and

WHEREAS, any new state or federal policies must consider all effective forest treatment tools and should include both public and private sector resources to accomplish forest health and management goals; and

WHEREAS, the health of the forest in Northern Arizona is essential to the personal safety, enjoyment of life, and the economic well being of the residents of Payson,

JUN 16 2011 G.6

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON, ARIZONA, DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. That the Town of Payson desires to co-sponsor and support the attached Arizona League of Cities & Towns' Resolution (Urging the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to enact effective and large-scale forest restoration efforts for Arizona and other western forests to improve forest health and reduce the risks from catastrophic wildfires) attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- Section 2. That the Town of Payson, acting by and through its Mayor and/or its other appropriate officers and officials, is hereby authorized to take all other actions necessary or appropriate to co-sponsor and support the attached League of Cities & Towns' Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PAYSON this ____ day of _____, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES ____ NOES ____ ABSTENTIONS ____ ABSENT ____

Kenny J. Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Silvia Smith, Town Clerk



Timothy M. Wright, Town Attorney

**EXHIBIT A
TO
RESOLUTION 2606**

LEAGUE OF ARIZONA CITIES & TOWNS

Resolution #

Urges the President of the United States and the U.S Congress to enact effective and large-scale forest restoration efforts for Arizona and other western forests to improve forest health and reduce the risks from catastrophic wildfires.

Submitted by: City of Scottsdale

A. Purpose and Effect of Resolution

In the Western United States there are millions of acres of diseased, dying, and overgrown forests that have created a widespread forest health problem. The poor condition of these forests has dramatically increased the effects of insect infestation, understory overgrowth, and unnatural fire conditions. The forest health problem is widespread and is affecting wildlife habitat, watershed management, and increasing the dangers to human life and property.

While there have been some small-scale forest restoration efforts, prescribed by existing state and federal policies, overall forest health is rapidly declining. New policies are needed to initiate cost-effective and large-scale restorations to address the growing forest health problem. Because state and federal financial resources are currently limited, the use of commercial operations should be considered as a means of providing cost-effective forest restoration efforts.

U.S. Forest Service data indicates that growth of Western forests exceeds removals by three-fold. Without large-scale forest health treatments, events associated with high-risk forests will continue to cause severe social, economic and ecological impacts. Any new state or federal policies must consider all effective forest treatment tools and should include both public and private sector resources to accomplish forest health and management goals.

B. Relevance to Municipal Policy

Properly maintained forests provide numerous benefits to the residents and visitors to Arizona cities and towns. Benefits include increasing water yields and creating sustainable watersheds, recreation and tourism, timber, maintaining real estate values, wildlife habitat, and adding value to the State’s economy.

C. Fiscal Impact to Cities and Towns

The initiation of large scale forest restoration activities may provide additional jobs and secondary economic benefits to the local economy such as the purchase of equipment, food sales, etc. The negative economic impact to local governments from unhealthy forest conditions can include the costs of residents being displaced from their homes, job losses, the loss of tourism, diminished real estate values, and loss or damage to public infrastructure.

D. Fiscal Impact to the State

State or federal monies would likely be necessary to implement large-scale forest restoration projects. With the increased use of commercial forest operations, these types of projects could conceivably become more revenue neutral.

E. Contact Information

Name: Brad Lundahl

Title: Government Relations Director

Phone: (480) 312-2683

Email: Blundahl@ScottsdaleAZ.gov