

1 [Supporting AB 2600.]

2

3 **Resolution expressing support for Assembly Bill 2600, introduced by Assemblyman**  
4 **John Laird, creating a Sierra Nevada Conservancy.**

5

6 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges are California’s last great  
7 reservoir for clean water, blue oak woodlands, working ranches, wilderness and recreation;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, This 400-mile-long mountain range, covering 31% of the state, is source  
10 for more than 65% of California’s drinking water and almost 100% of Northern Nevada’s; and,

11 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges feature the tallest mountains in  
12 the nation outside of Alaska and world renown tourist attractions of Lake Tahoe, Mono Lake  
13 and Yosemite Valley, as well as eight national forests, three national parks, and numerous  
14 state parks and wilderness areas; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Sierra supports half of all plants found in California, including 3,500  
16 native plant species and 200 that are rare – nearly two-thirds of the bird and mammal species  
17 and about half of the reptile and amphibian species in California; and,

18 WHEREAS, Many environmental threats confront the Sierra, including impaired water  
19 quality due to development and resource extraction in 23 of 24 Sierran watersheds as well as  
20 mercury and other toxic pollution that creates serious and ongoing contamination of the  
21 headwaters of California’s water supplies; and,

22 WHEREAS, Assemblyman John Laird introduced a bill establishing a Sierra Nevada  
23 Conservancy to coordinate investment of existing federal and state monies allocated to water  
24 quality and water quantity improvements, watershed restoration, investment in working  
25 ranches and farms, recreation and education; and,

1           WHEREAS, The Conservancy would provide increased opportunities for tourism and  
2 recreation, protect the region’s physical cultural and historical resources, improve the public’s  
3 understanding of the resources of the region and assist the local economy

4           WHEREAS, AB 2600 proposes a simple governing structure, and proposes that the  
5 board be term limited appointments, consisting of seven voting plus three nonvoting  
6 members, with four year terms; and,

7           WHEREAS, The Conservancy would work with federal, state and non-profit  
8 organizations to protect natural diversity and natural resources, open space, working  
9 landscapes, riparian areas, watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities,  
10 interpretive facilities and public access; and,

11           WHEREAS, AB 2600 does not mandate new costs by local and county government in  
12 the Sierra, creates no new regulatory powers for local, state or federal government agencies  
13 and protects the rights of private property owners by allowing buyers to purchase land or  
14 easement without governmental interference; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
16 hereby support AB 2600 and its intent to create a Sierra Nevada Conservancy; and, be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board urges the California Legislature to approve  
18 AB 2600; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to  
20 Assemblymen Mark Leno and Leland Yee and Senators John Burton and Jackie Speir.