

1 [Opposing Federal Legislation.]

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3 **Resolution opposing H.R. 298, a bill sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo to require the**
4 **Secretary of the Interior to provide public access to the Farallon National Wildlife**
5 **Refuge.**

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7 WHEREAS, The Farallon National Wilderness Refuge is located 28 miles west of San
8 Francisco and is within San Francisco's city limits; and,

9 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Farallon National
10 Wildlife Refuge is the largest seabird breeding colony on the Pacific coast south of Alaska,
11 hosting more than 300,000 birds each summer; and

12 WHEREAS, Breeding species of seabirds on the Farallon Islands include the western
13 gull, Cassin's auklet, rhinoceros auklet, common murre, Brandt's cormorant, double-crested
14 cormorant, pelagic cormorant, pigeon guillemot, ashy storm petrel, Leach's storm petrel,
15 American black oystercatcher and the tufted puffin, in addition to stellar sea lions and
16 northern elephant seals which breed and pup on the South Farallon Islands; and,

17 WHEREAS, Although the two hundred and eleven acre island habitat is closed to
18 public access, the wildlife can be observed, studied and photographed at a distance from
19 boats; and,

20 WHEREAS, Seabirds, whales, sea turtles, marine mammals and large fish exploit the
21 abundant and diverse food resources of this geography, one of the most abundant in the
22 world which includes rockfish that spawn near the Islands' rocky shores which are food for
23 commercially valuable fish such as salmon; and,

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1 WHEREAS, Given the lack of infrastructure on the islands, there are serious safety
2 issues involving accessing the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge as well as on the island
3 which preclude the feasibility of opening the refuge to the public; and,

4 WHEREAS, Opening the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge to the public could put one
5 of our country's greatest natural treasures at risk by threatening sensitive wildlife populations
6 to excessive human disturbance; and,

7 WHEREAS, Increased human disturbance to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge
8 would likely increase negative impacts on federally and state listed protected species; and,

9 WHEREAS, A copy of H.R. 298 is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in
10 File No. , which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That it shall be the official policy of the City and County of San Francisco
13 to oppose H.R. 298 or any similar effort to increase public access to the Farallon National
14 Wildlife Refuge; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon final adoption of this resolution, the Clerk of the
16 Board of Supervisors shall transmit copies to Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congressman
17 Tom Lantos, Senator Diane Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer.

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