

## Keep It California, a non-partisan PAC

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January 24, 2016

Amador County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Board of Supervisors:


We urge the Board to take no action on the resolution placing the state of Jefferson question on the ballot. Please consider the following:

- The idea of splitting the state has a long history and serious consequences. The state of Jefferson proponents need to show they are capable of creating a new government by working within the current legal structure to advance their idea.
- California has a robust initiative process that concerned groups can use to bring issues to the electorate. It requires collection of signatures of 10% of registered voters which are validated by the County Clerk to show that there is sufficient public interest for the county to place the question on the ballot. This group has not demonstrated the validated support necessary to place this question on the ballot.
- However, they have circumvented the authority of the Board and did not wait to hear the will of the voters by submitting four signatures on a petition to the state legislature committing Amador residents to this course of action. This petition is attached for your review.
- Is the Board setting a precedent that every special interest group, regardless of the level of validated support, will expect the Board to place a measure on the ballot for them? On January 12, Plumas County Supervisors unanimously decided to rescind their Jefferson ballot resolution for this reason.
- Will placing measures on the ballot for these groups indicate Board support for them despite evidence to the contrary?
- Supervisors are elected to serve the best interests of the county residents and businesses and have a depth of knowledge about the operations, policies and budget on which to base decisions. CAO Chuck Iley's analysis discusses the severe financial impacts on the county's budget with a loss of state funding over \$26M; 47% of the budget which closely tracks our presentation in November.

Further analysis of impacts on the public schools, city budgets, and loss of state support for CalFire, CalTrans, and other state services will need to be conducted for voters to have a more complete picture and make a sound judgment if this measure goes to the ballot.

We urge you to ask the Jefferson group to avail themselves of the initiative process instead of allowing a vocal minority to usurp the Board's authority as they did by going directly to the state legislature with so little evidence of support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Ellsmore".

Cindy Ellsmore, Chair

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