

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021- \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, DECLARING THE COUNTY'S  
OPPOSITION TO POTENTIAL COAL EXPORT THROUGH HUMBOLDT COUNTY  
AND REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL.**

**WHEREAS**, to complete the Great Redwood Trail, the North Coast Railroad Authority petitioned the Surface Transportation Board to preserve its right-of-way for public use under the railbanking provisions of the National Trail System Act.

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 2021, attorneys on behalf of the North Coast Railroad Company, L.L.C. moved before the Surface Transportation Board to oppose railbanking efforts for the line and indicated that it would offer financial assistance to rebuild the defunct line to “deploy it in the transportation of high-volume shipments by rail.”

**WHEREAS**, the North Coast Railroad Company, L.L.C. evidently represents coal interests seeking avenues for the export of coal to foreign markets via shipping terminals on Humboldt Bay.

**WHEREAS**, coal has the largest climate impact per unit of energy produced, has contributed the largest proportion of the carbon dioxide now causing global climate change, and which is resulting in local impacts including increasingly catastrophic wildfires and accelerating sea level rise.

**WHEREAS**, coal is a friable material which invariably produces large amounts of toxic dust (also known as particulate matter) during transportation, handling, storage and processing, which pollutes local air and waterways and has significant negative health effects for humans and wildlife

**WHEREAS**, coal-fired power plants emit mercury into the atmosphere which is deposited throughout the world in rain and fog, contaminating fish with mercury at levels that can harm human health, particularly children.

**WHEREAS**, coal trains are often in excess of one mile in length and the estimated rail volume necessary to repay capital costs and routine line maintenance is estimated to require a minimum of two 50-car trains in each direction through Humboldt every day.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is opposed to coal exports through Humboldt County. The Board directs staff to begin work on a local ordinance to prohibit the construction of new infrastructure for the transportation, storage, processing or export of coal.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, in the County of Humboldt, State of California, on the \_\_\_\_th day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**