

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** November 18, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Local Energy Assurance Planning Initiative

**ATTACHMENTS:** Draft Resolution and Support Letter

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Land of Sky Regional Council is coordinating a grant application through the City of Asheville to develop a regional strategic fuels plan utilizing the US Department of Energy's Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) initiative. The Land of Sky Regional Council is requesting Henderson County's support along with Buncombe, Haywood, Madison and Transylvania counties.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to consider supporting the regional energy assurance planning initiative by adopting the attached resolution and authorizing the Chairman to send a letter of support.

**Suggested Motion:**

I move the Board approve the resolution supporting the Local Energy Assurance Planning initiative and to authorize the Chairman to send a letter of support for same.

# HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite #1  
Hendersonville, NC 28792  
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 698-4443  
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BILL MOYER  
Chairman  
CHARLIE MESSER  
Vice-Chairman

CHUCK MCGRADY  
MARK WILLIAMS  
LARRY YOUNG

November 19, 2009

Ms. Diane Franklin  
Contract Specialist  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
U.S. Department of Energy  
3610 Collins Ferry Road  
P.O. Box 880  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Ms. Franklin:

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners fully support the concept of a regional partnership to create and implement a Regional Strategic Fuels Plan using the Department of Energy's Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) initiative. We support the City of Asheville and the Land-of-Sky Regional Council in the formation of a multi-governmental integrated plan.

As a local government in the Western North Carolina Region, we recognize Western North Carolina has a vulnerable fuel infrastructure. This has caused several fuel shortages with the shortage in the fall of 2008 being the most extreme. In the fall of 2008 the NC League of Municipalities conducted a survey which highlighted a willingness of local governments to collaborate regionally to prevent or mitigate fuel shortages. The Land-of-Sky held a meeting on January 16, 2009 and again on September 14, 2009 to address this regional issue.

We agree to participate in activities with our local government partners which will lead to a regional energy assurance plan that meets the scope and scale of the grant including staffing to analyze the current fueling infrastructure, developing a regional plan to mitigate and minimize the effects of future fuel shortages, and creating a diversified fueling infrastructure including bio-fuels, Compressed Natural Gas, and electric vehicles where appropriate.

Henderson County has an estimated population of 104,000 persons and we understand the need to ensure emergency services to our citizens even in times of severe shortages. We believe the Regional Strategic Fuels Project initiated by Land-of-Sky is one part of a successful plan to protect the region from shortages in the future.

Sincerely,

William L. Moyer, Chairman

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## **RESOLUTION to support and participate in regional collaboration of county and city governments to address regional fuel planning through the US Department of Energy's Local Energy Assurance Planning (LEAP) Initiative**

**WHEREAS,** Henderson County is part of a five-county region defined by the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization; and

**WHEREAS,** Henderson County recognizes individual and corporate vulnerability to a fuel crisis which should be mitigated to the extent possible at the municipal, county, regional, state and federal government level; and

**WHEREAS,** these crises have occurred due to limitations in the national fuel infrastructure provided to the region through the Colonial Pipeline. In the past, tropical storms affecting the gulf coast and political situations on the other side of the world have exposed this vulnerability; and

**WHEREAS,** these variables cannot be controlled locally, we will work with the governments of the region to develop a Regional Strategic Fuel Program to plan and implement regional strategies that limit future exposure to fuel shortages and create a long-term fuel stability plan;

**NOW THEREFORE,** be it resolved on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009 the Henderson County Board of Commissioners in cooperation with the City of Asheville and Land-of-Sky Regional Council supports the Local Energy Assurance Planning Initiative grant application to create an integrated regionally based strategic fuels plan for the betterment of our county and the region.

Attest:

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Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

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William L. Moyer, Chairman