

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2011

SUBJECT: House Bill 406 – Voluntary Agriculture Districts

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Letter of Request

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Board of Commissioners has been requested by the Agriculture Advisory Board to speak out in opposition to House Bill 406. If passed, this bill would change the qualification for Voluntary Agriculture Districts (VAD) such that property would no longer be required to participate in or qualify for Present Use Value to qualify for VAD. Such a change would allow hobby farms and backyard gardens in subdivisions to qualify.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to oppose House Bill 406, and to authorize the Chairman to execute any correspondence to that effect if so desired.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board oppose House Bill 406, and to authorize the Chairman to execute any correspondence to that effect if so desired.

Edney

Henderson County Agriculture Advisory Board

61 Triple Springs Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: 828-697-4949 Fax: 828-693-5832

MAR 30 2011
cc: BOC
scanned
Steve
Selena

March 28, 2011

Michael Edney, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners
1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite 1
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Commissioner Edney:

On behalf of the Henderson County Agriculture Advisory Board, I would like to urge the Board of Commissioners to speak out against House Bill 406.

If passed, it appears the bill would change the qualification for Voluntary Ag Districts such that property would no longer be required to participate in or qualify for Present Use Value in order to qualify for VAD. Even hobby farms and backyard gardens in subdivisions would appear to qualify. It is clear that VAD could quickly spin out of control if these changes are made. While we want to stress our support for the small farmers of Henderson County, we do not believe it was the intent of VAD to include every garden plot in the state.

We, the members of the Henderson County Agriculture Advisory Board, are opposed to adding any legislation similar to House Bill 406, and we ask that the Commissioners also speak out in opposition to this Bill.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Theron Maybin

Theron Maybin, Chairman
Henderson County Agriculture Advisory Board

CC:

Rep. Chuck McGrady

Rep. David Guice

Sen. Tom Apodaca

Danny McConnell, Henderson County Farm Bureau President

NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler