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Mark and Dina Moore

480 BUTTE CREEK ROAD ★ KNEELAND, CA 95549
Phone (707) 442-3878 ★ EMAL: dinajmoore@gmail.com

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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Dr. Lisa Rossbacher, University President
Humboldt State University
1 Harpst Street
Arcata, CA 95521-8299

Dear President Rossbacher,

I wanted to bring to your attention concerns that many of us in the agricultural rangeland and forestry community have about the Rangeland Resource Science and Wildland Soil Science Program (RRWS) at Humboldt State University. This program is about to celebrate a 50 year history at Humboldt State. The Rangeland Resource Science Program at Humboldt is the **ONLY** such baccalaureate program found in California. Baccalaureate graduates enter the workforce fully prepared for federal positions as Rangeland Management Specialists, Soil Scientists and Soil Conservationists. Those of us who manage rangelands and ecosystems depend heavily on these individuals as partners and advisors for the health and stewardship of our rangelands. Given my experience, I believe that there is a growing need for graduates from this program. Humboldt State has a reputation for Natural Resource management; the RRWS should continue be an integral part of that program.

It is my understanding that following the 5 year Academic Probation, the RRWS program was challenged to meet 3 growth benchmarks in a Memorandum of Understanding crafted by the College of Natural Resources and Sciences (CNRS). It is also my understanding that these benchmarks have been met and at times exceeded. When CNRS Department Chairs met in December of 2015, a new Rangeland faculty position was ranked a disappointing 8th highest priority in the college. I understand that this has been dropped in priority to 10th place? Currently, there is 1 tenured track faculty member in this program, the last retired in 2014. We need a tenured faculty member for this program!

Of the land in the United States over 36% is rangeland. Within the Western United States approximately 53% is considered rangeland. Because of the unique opportunities that I have had to serve locally, regionally and across the nation with partners who are actively managing and conserving rangeland, I understand the critical nature and future potential for the RRWS program at HSU. Previously, I served on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. In that capacity staff was trying to make policy decisions about range and watershed interactions. Most recently, those of us in the proactive

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win/win arena of collaborative conservation have either watched or been a part of the win for the Sage Grouse and rangeland managers in the West. Without strong partners providing science coordinating studies and research on rangelands disputes and challenges such as whether or not to list a species could have had an entirely different outcome. As the recipients of the 2015 certificate of Excellence in Rangeland Management awarded by the Society for Range, we could not have achieved this honor without considerable assistance from our Rangeland advisors, who are graduates of this program. As a leader across the nation for collaborative conservation, I strongly support this program and would be willing to provide whatever support is necessary to see it succeed and thrive. Please do not hesitate to contact me and please consider raising the priority of this important Natural Resource program.

Very Truly Yours,



Dina Moore

Cc: Dr. Alex Enyedi, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Keith Gilles, Chair Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Dr. David F. Greene, Chair, Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources
Congressman Jared Huffman
Dr. Glenda Humiston, Vice President of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
Dr. Steven Smith, Dean, College of Natural Resources and Sciences
Assemblyman Jim Wood