



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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Telephone (707) 476-2390 Fax (707) 445-7299

December 19, 2017

Assemblymember Susan Eggman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 186 (Eggman) – Safer Drug Consumption Program – Removal of
Humboldt County

Dear Assemblymember Eggman:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to express our desire to be removed from Assembly Bill (AB) 186, until such time as the community has had an opportunity to explore the potential impact of this legislation or other more robust legislation, both positive or negative, to fact find and to build a consensus among community members. Alternatively, the Board would support the existing legislation if amended to include an opportunity to “opt in” after such community conversations have taken place.

No county official in Humboldt County was contacted about inclusion in this legislation when it was first introduced in the 2017 legislative session. While we appreciate innovative efforts aimed at harm reduction, we believe Humboldt County is not yet prepared for injection facilities.

For such facilities to be successful, it is necessary that the community at-large be involved in the discussions and solutions. While it is true that AB 186 is not a mandate, the fact that Humboldt County was included without being asked has left many in the community feeling uncomfortable and uninformed. Compounding this issue is the lack of outreach at the state level. However, we are confident it is not too late to begin those conversations.

In closing, our Board is again respectfully requesting that Humboldt County be removed from AB 186 as it is currently written, until such time as the concerns outlined above have been addressed.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or other members of our Board to discuss this matter further, or perhaps arrange a visit to our community to speak with stakeholders who can work to implement a successful program in the future.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh

cc: Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih, Inc.
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California