

Grange #225
Friday Harbor, WA



A Resolution in Support of the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm, Pt. Reyes, CA

Friday Harbor Grange #225 in Washington State, endorses and supports a January 2013 resolution of the Sonoma Valley Grange in Petaluma California which joined with Marin Grange in a call for the continued operation of the world famous Drakes Bay Oyster Company at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Whereas San Juan County Washington has similar rural characteristics and working waterfronts as the Pt. Reyes region in California, including a tradition of world class oyster aquaculture; and,

Whereas President Obama, through initiative of Interior Secretary Salazar recently declared a National Monument status to protect and preserve historic light-houses and natural features located both within and surrounding San Juan County; and,

Whereas Friday Harbor Grange #225 has become concerned that adverse federal action initiated by Secretary Salazar against the Drakes Bay Oyster Company could set a precedent for future action adverse to local aquaculture in proximity to the newly established San Juan Islands National Monument; and,

Whereas legal efforts against the Drakes Bay Oyster Company have been driven largely by a Marin County California advocacy organization led by a former staff attorney of the Friends of the San Juans, in San Juan County Washington; and,

Whereas the Friends of the San Juans has been a strong advocate for the San Juan Islands National Monument status, and is a major stakeholder in developing long range management plans for same; and,

Whereas Sonoma Valley Grange and other interested parties have raised legitimate concerns over strong-armed tactics pursued by the Marin County environmental advocacy group led by a former staff attorney of the Friends of the San Juans. The Friends of the San Juans use similar strong-armed tactics against permitted, eco-friendly and pre-existing businesses in San Juan County including aquaculture marine enterprise;

Therefore be it resolved that:

Friday Harbor Grange #225 fully supports the Drake's Bay Oyster Company and the Lunny family's efforts to continue operating their oyster farm in order to maintain the harmonious co-existence of sustainable agriculture and wilderness and;

Be it further resolved that all interested parties, including our local, state and federal elected officials, explore any and all means to ensure continued operation of the Drakes Bay Oyster Company and;

That a copy of this resolution be published in the local media, with copies sent to the masters of Granges in San Juan County, WA, to the Sonoma Valley Grange and Marin Granges in California; to the Washington and California State Grange, to the National Grange and to the Drakes Bay Oyster Company.