

SB 558

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT &
WATER & LAND**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2017
2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 558
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 558, which provides an appropriation of \$500,000 to hire 5 permanent full time positions for technicians at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Maui unit, to conduct the work of eradication of invasive pest species on the island of Maui. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive pest species put our native forests, landscapes, and cultivated fields at risk. They are the single greatest issue of concern for their impact on our tourism industry. Invasive pest species such as Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle can quickly destroy our coconut palms, which are emblematic of our tropical environment and tourist destination, as well as other established palm trees. Equally, if not more, problematic is Miconia which is a terrible scourge in our native forests. It smothers the trees that they grow on and ultimately kills them because of the ability of the Miconia to deny sunshine to the trees and plants growing in the forest. Additionally, it would be good to provide funding for the other units of DLNR Department of Forestry and Wildlife on the other major islands in our State. Concentrating resources on Maui is commendable but the need is Statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Friday, February 10, 2017
2:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 558
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 558 proposes to establish five full-time invasive species technicians within the Maui branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). **The Department supports this initiative, as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

The Department recognizes the extreme invasive species challenges faced by East Maui, as described in SECTION 1 of this measure. Populations of miconia, little fire ants, and coqui frogs are at critical points where years of progress may be lost if additional resources are not utilized for these efforts. These species have been managed under partnerships including the Maui Invasive Species Committee and Hawaii Ant Lab (both projects of the University of Hawaii), with support from DOFAW's Maui Branch and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Field capacity has largely been handled through targeted temporary work. The addition of permanent civil service positions as described in this measure would allow the Department to better collaborate with partners in these efforts and would contribute to long-term stability of invasive species control efforts on Maui.

A key focus of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP) is increasing the Department's ability to respond to invasive species affecting Hawaii's forests and other natural resources. The HIBP notes that the capacity for DOFAW branches to respond to invasive species threats is inadequate, with some branches having no permanent invasive species technicians. The HIBP recommends adding 45 invasive species technicians statewide over the next 10 years, adding in

each biennium two technicians to the Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii branches, with an additional technician for Molokai (HIBP action #113, PosTifs1.10). Passage of this measure would greatly advance the State's progress in implementing the HIBP.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:25 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:34 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And Senate Committee on Water and Land
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2017 2:30 pm
Room 224

Support for SB 558 Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Gabbard, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 558, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

Experts recommend a minimum investment of \$50 million a year to, essentially, implement the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The plan includes the most important actions we can take to prevent invasive species from entering the islands and prevent the spread of invasive species already here. We still have a way to go here, however, piecemeal funding is better than nothing, and East Maui needs help.

Invasive species are the most significant environmental and economic threat in Hawai'i. If you bathe or drink water, you should be concerned about the destruction of essential watersheds on ceded lands. Invasive species are responsible for the loss of habitat for native plants and animals, and contribute to species endangerment and extinctions in Hawai'i. Invasive species degrade cultural and public recreation areas, rendering these areas unusable (e.g., invasive strawberry guava in Hawaiian forests). The introduction of biting flies and stinging midges (for example) could destroy our visitor industry.

Unfortunately, the alien species invasion is getting worse. It is amazing how so few people realize this and how relatively little money is appropriated to protect us from invasive species. Please help the people of East Maui and pass SB 558. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Miconia, littlefire ant, and ivy gourd, and miconia – three of dozens of invasive species in East Maui.

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www@conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



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President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:45 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:39 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Hawaii Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii Senate Committee on Water and Land
All Hawaii State Legislators

As a farmer and resident of East Maui, I support SB 558. Invasive species need to be stopped on Maui before they cause irreparable harm to tourism, farming, culture, and potentially the ability to live on the `aina.

For example, if the little fire ants take hold on Maui, we will not be able to farm our rural land and help support Hawaiian food sovereignty. Cultural practitioners will no longer be able to safely hunt and gather in the forests. Residents often will not be able to afford the chemicals needed to keep their keiki and kupuna safe from ant attacks. Tourists who explore the trails aren't likely to visit if they may get attacked by simply bumping a tree.

MISC has done a great job so far managing LFA infestations on Maui with all the challenges they bring, but the number of incidents has been increasing and MISC needs these additional technicians.

We have only addressed the LFA problems because we consider these have the most potential to harm Maui's culture, livability, farm value and economy. MISC's work suppressing miconia, coqui and other invasives is also important.

Beyond the scope of this bill, the legislature might consider that it would be far easier and more economical to stop the LFA from entering on Maui than to suppress them. A future bill to support additional, more thorough interisland freight inspections is warranted. But for now, we must detect and suppress the LFA.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Gaarder
PO Box 1032
Hana, HI 96713

To: Hawaii Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii Senate Committee on Water and Land
All Hawaii State Legislators

As a farmer and resident of Maui, I support SB 558. Invasive species need to be stopped on Maui before they cause irreparable harm to tourism, farming, culture, and potentially the ability to live on the `aina.

For example, if the little fire ants take hold on Maui, we will not be able to farm our rural land and help support Hawaiian food sovereignty. Hula halao, pig hunters and other cultural practitioners will no longer be able to safely pursue their wilderness crafts. Residents often will not be able to afford the chemicals needed to keep their keiki and kupuna safe from ant attacks. Tourists who explore the trails aren't likely to visit if they may get attacked by simply bumping a tree.

MISC has done a great job so far managing LFA infestations on Maui with all the challenges they bring, but the number of incidents has been increasing and MISC needs these additional technicians.

We have only addressed the LFA problems because we consider these have the most potential to harm Maui's culture, livability, farm value and economy. MISC's work suppressing miconia, coqui and other invasives is also important.

Beyond the scope of this bill, the legislature might consider that it would be far easier and more economical to stop the LFA from entering on Maui than to suppress them. A future bill to support additional, more thorough interisland freight inspections is warranted. But for now, we must detect and suppress the LFA.

Thomas Bacon
PO Box 1032
Hana, HI 96713

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:32 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: marcy cayton@rocketmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcy cayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:24 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ealoi@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Aloii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:03 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 6:56 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Hello,

My name is Kim from Nuuanu on Oahu, and I am writing in support of SB558.

I am an environmental scientist, and have seen first hand the damage that invasive species are doing in east Maui. East Maui needs native forests in order to trap water that feeds the rest of the island. Removing invasive species is hard work, and the extra positions would support the continued battle against ginger and strawberry guava.

Dr. Kim Falinski

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 5:15 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: tulsigreenlee@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulsi Greenlee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 5:01 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: breezybees808@Gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:10 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: scott@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for your consideration of supporting funds for five full-time invasive species tech positions in east Maui. These positions are greatly needed as east Maui faces serious challenges from several invasive species, including miconia and the little fire ant. These plant and animal pests have the potential to radically alter our ecosystem (which includes the major water source for Maui) and our agricultural economy and way of life. But they are all still in a stage where they can be managed and even eradicated with sufficient efforts. MISC has done a great job with the resources they've had to keep these invasive threats in check, but more support is needed. It is much wiser and more economical in the long run to attack these threats aggressively when they are still relatively early in their invasions, and to proactively detect new threats as they arrive. Your support for SB 558 will provide a great help in this effort. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 1:43 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: info@beyondorganicresearch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jana Bogs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:16 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mpahukoa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:33 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: gr8bluhron@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Billie Dawson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This legislation is long overdue for all islands & has my support. The legislature can no longer sit in your chairs & let our native flora & fauna disappear because of invasive species. Mahalo

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Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:30 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: oneifbylandenv@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott lacasse	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:34 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: ELITEHAWAII@AOL.COM
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DONNIE BECKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:07 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: reneeariley@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure would help get rid of invasive species on Maui - before they get worse.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 3:43 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sunnysavage@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:24 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: fu_dog_5@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 9:58 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: lberthold@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM

SB558

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Berthold	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Invasive species are considered the number one threat to native species. These are important positions to fund. Protecting the island and preventing the spread of invasive species helps the people and the land. Native forests provide more water and clean air. Invasive species threaten agriculture and the beauty of the island.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:39 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 3:45 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB558 on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM*

SB558

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN/WTL on Feb 10, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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