



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: November 2, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Honoring Steve Dutton As A Recipient Of North Bay Leadership Council's 2021 Leaders Of The
North Bay Award.**

Whereas, Steve Dutton is a standout leader in Sonoma County's agriculture industry. He is cutting-edge in his business strategies and fosters collaboration between agriculture commodity interests in Northern California; and

Whereas, Dutton is the fifth-generation of Duttons to live in the area. Dutton began working with his father, Warren, by the time he was five years old. His leap into the family business fulltime came in 1987, as his initial fascination with farming equipment became a keen passion for farming; and

Whereas, At the age of 32, Dutton was named Sonoma County's "Young Farmer of the Year." He credits his relationship with the land the reason why he is such an innovative farmer. His practices were perfected over time, and in 2017, the Duttons were named the 2017 Sustainable Farmers by the Sonoma County Harvest Fair.; and

Whereas, Dutton has given his time and support to the community. The Dutton family has provided their support to the Santa Rosa Junior College, local schools, and various youth organizations in Sonoma County. Dutton is the first person to step-up to lend equipment, donate wine, or provide his time as a leader to the causes that foster self-esteem and improved quality of life for anyone less fortunate; and

Whereas, Dutton sits on the Board of the Sonoma County Farm Trails Organization, Exchange Bank Board, SRJC Viticultural Advisory Committee, Lagunians, is the past president of the Board of the Russian River Valley Win Growers Foundation and the Sonoma County Farm Bureau. At the Farm Bureau alone, Dutton championed efforts to create employer-provided farmworker housing, manifested training programs to provide ESL workers with information needed to work safely on our local farms and led the charge in pushing for more visa allotments for farming; and

Whereas, Dutton has incredible accomplishments. But if there were one feat that Steve has innovated the most, it is labor housing. He was one of the first farmers to build a dormitory to house his temporary workers on his farm. He now has housing for 100 individual workers and 20 housing units for working families. This was all financed without public support. Sonoma County is currently facing a housing crisis and this achievement is no less than heroic; and

Whereas, Dutton has continued to be a mentor to many other farmers looking to enhance their housing amenities for laborers as well as other areas. He is respected for his problem-solving and creative thinking with an emphasis on looking out for his community and the people in it.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, hereby commends and honors Steve Dutton as a recipient of North Bay Leadership Council's 2021 Leaders of the North Bay Award for "The Light Bulb Went On: Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit".

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.