



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District  
DON KNABE  
Fourth District  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

January 2, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **MOTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 2066 (DENHAM) AND S. 1710 (WHITEHOUSE) (AGENDA ITEM NO. 6, MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2014)**

Item No. 6 on the January 7, 2014 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to direct our Washington advocates to support H.R. 2066 (Denham) and S. 1710 (Whitehouse) and to send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional delegation expressing the Board's support.

### **Pets on Trains Act of the 2013**

The Pets on Trains Act of 2013 (H.R. 2066 and S. 1710) would direct Amtrak to propose a pet policy within 90 days of the bill's enactment that allows passengers to transport a domesticated cat or dog on certain Amtrak trains. Under the proposed policy, Amtrak must "designate, where feasible, at least one car of each passenger train that is comprised of more than one car in which a ticketed passenger may transport a domesticated cat or dog in the same manner as cargo baggage," if the cat or dog is contained in a pet kennel, which can be stowed in accordance with Amtrak requirements for cargo stowage in a cargo area that must be temperature controlled to protect the animal's health. The passenger of the pet would be required to be ticketed for traveling a distance less than 750 miles and to pay a fee that, at minimum, covers for costs of administering the policy.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

*Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided  
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only*

Each Supervisor  
January 2, 2014  
Page 2

Amtrak currently does not allow animals on its trains with the exception of “service animals” that are trained to perform tasks for the benefit of disabled persons. Advocacy groups, such as the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and the Humane Society of the United States, support the Pets on Trains Act of 2013 while Amtrak has not yet taken a position on the legislation. Supporters of H.R. 2066 and S. 1710 believe that travelers should be allowed to carry their beloved pets on trains, just as many airlines allow passengers to travel with their pets. Opponents raise concerns about the health effects on other passengers – in particular, to those who are allergic to cats and dogs.

H.R. 2066, which was introduced on May 21, 2013 by Representative Denham (R-CA), has 30 co-sponsors, including 13 Democrats. S. 1710, which was introduced on November 14, 2013 by Senator Whitehouse (D-RI), has one co-sponsor -- Senator Feinstein. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to which the bills were referred have not yet scheduled any action on them.

### **County Impact and Conclusion**

The Pets on Trains Act legislation would not have any impact on the County. However, both the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Metrolink currently allow animals that are in secure carriers on their vehicles. The County’s Federal Legislative Agenda does not include any policies relating to Amtrak pet policies. **Therefore, approval of this motion is a matter of Board policy determination.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:MT:lm

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel