



WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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WSSA RESOLUTION #2016-01 EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT REFORM

Whereas: Western States Sheriffs' Association represents the Sheriffs of its member States and,

Whereas: Many of the member States hold large portions of Federally managed lands and,

Whereas: The member States were created and sustained with the industries required to provide wealth to the United States of America from those lands and,

Whereas: Sheriffs are responsible for the safety and well-being of the citizens through their ability to provide an appropriate level of necessary services and,

Whereas: It is of interest to Sheriffs that their communities be self-sustaining while sharing in the cost of providing financial resources to all levels of government for the greater well-being of the Nation and its States and,

Whereas: Sheriffs are extremely concerned with the loss of jobs and opportunities for families to sustain a living in many rural communities and the poverty that this has caused compounded through the decline in quality schools and the decline in the number of students moving on to college as poverty has increased and opportunity has vanished and,

Whereas: The United States of America has become overly dependent on foreign nations for raw materials such as minerals, wood fiber and energy while running the risk of losing the infrastructure and knowledge of harvesting and processing the needed resources and,

Whereas: Great environmental harm is being done in some of the foreign nations through resource acquisition when it can be done safer and in a much healthier manner in the United States and,

Whereas: Sheriffs have witnessed as land management decisions become more influenced by the environmental and conservation special interest groups due to their ability to challenge management decisions with the "Equal Access to Justice Act" as well as collect their litigation costs, creating a self-serving business at the expense of rural America, its natural resource industries and the health of the lands of the United States.

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Western States Sheriffs' Association members call on Congress to make meaningful amendments to the Equal Access to Justice Act to allow Federal Natural Resource Management agencies freedom to do their duties in managing public lands, species and community health of the Western United States thereby creating a path to self-sustaining rural communities and a healthier and safer United States of America.

Hereby resolved this 2nd day of March, 2016 at the annual conference of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dave D. Brown".

**Sheriff Dave Brown, President
Western States Sheriffs' Association**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. F. Pond".

**James F. Pond, Sheriff (Ret.)
Executive Director**

