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HONORABLE
SHIRLEY WEBER
79th Assembly District

July 16, 2015

REC'D JUL 21 2015

The Honorable Dave Turner
City of Fort Bragg
416 N. Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Dear Mayor Turner:

We, the members of the California Legislative Black Caucus write to strongly and respectfully request that you and the residents of Fort Bragg rename your city.

In 2014, the California Legislature passed and Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 2444 (Hall) into law, to prohibit the State of California from selling or displaying the Confederate flag. This legislative session, SB 539 (Glazer) has been introduced to remove the names of elected and military leaders of the Confederacy from all public places, including parks, buildings, roadways and schools. Further AJR 26 (Weber) memorializes the United States Congress to ban the sale and display of the Confederate flag on federally owned properties and buildings and urges states that sell or display the flag at their capitols to have the flag removed.

These legislative efforts have fostered a needed discussion about the inappropriateness of any public entity promoting individuals that committed treason against our nation during the Civil War and fought to defend the defenseless cause of slavery. For too long, too many people accepted these treasonous names in our midst. It is time that we move forward as a state and as a nation and stop commemorating those who defended the Confederacy and its cause.

Fort Bragg is known for its strong sense of community, natural beauty and forward vision. It is also a very diverse community, with residents of many ethnicities and nationalities. But, the name Bragg comes from a darker history: Braxton Bragg served as military advisor to the president of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis, and as a general in the Confederate Army who led many bloody battles against the Union. He personally owned 105 slaves as he fought to preserve slavery. This is not the legacy that your city or any city should be associated with.

We are hopeful that you will engage your community in a serious re-examination of the historical implications of your city's name and come to the conclusion that now is the time to end your ties to such a disgraced and treasonous figure in our nation's history.

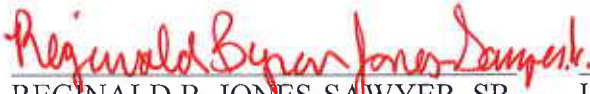
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The City of Fort Bragg should embrace a future that promotes an inclusive and welcoming community for all of its residents and for the many tourists that visit your emerald coastline. Now is the time to show leadership. Now is the time to embrace a new vision for your city and not be shackled by its shameful namesake.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



REGINALD B. JONES-SAWYER, SR.
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
59th Assembly District



SEBASTIAN RIDLEY-THOMAS
Secretary, Legislative Black Caucus
54th Assembly District



CHRISTOPHER HOLDEN
41st Assembly District



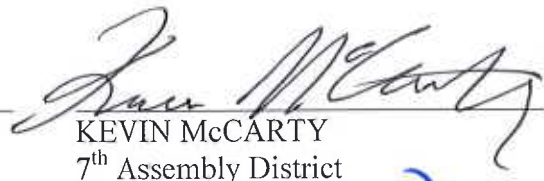
HOLLY MITCHELL
30th Senate District



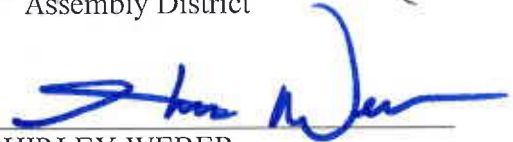
ISADORE HALL, III
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64th Assembly District



KEVIN McCARTY
7th Assembly District



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79th Assembly District