

Resolution # _____

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NATIONAL FOREST LAND WITHIN
THE BOUNDARIES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY IN THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS
LAND SALES INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, in President Bush's FY 2007 Budget for the Forest Service, a legislative proposal would reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for five years with funding provided through the authorization of the sale of certain parcels of National Forest System Lands; and

WHEREAS, 22.65 acres in the Pisgah National Forest within the boundaries of Buncombe County is included in the land designated for possible sale and well over 2,500 acres in Western North Carolina have also been so designated; and

WHEREAS, with local land resources fast disappearing, the Board of Commissioners feels that National Forest System land set aside in Western North Carolina and most specifically within Buncombe County should not be included in the National Forest System lands designated for sale; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners feel that National Forest System land within Buncombe County and all the Western North Carolina counties should be excluded from this initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That this Board does hereby express its opposition to the inclusion of any National Forest Land within Buncombe County and all other Western Carolina counties in consideration for possible sale to fund any initiative including the Secure Rural Schools Land Sales Initiative.
2. That this Board does hereby direct that this resolution be submitted to the National Forest Service under their public comment period prior to March 30, 2006 .
3. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Congressman Charles Taylor; Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr; all County, City, and municipal governments in the State of North Carolina, and to Governor Easley.

Adopted this the 21st day of March, 2006.