RESOLUTION 2015-01

WHEREAS, it is the civic duty of county government to provide its citizens with infrastructure projects that contribute to the overall vitality and economy of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the status of the American Burying Beetle (ABB) as endangered has prevented and slowed development by said county by requiring strict regulations and mitigation to preserve identified populations; and

WHEREAS, the ABB population has grown significantly and appears to exist in far more areas than it did prior to its listing via the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FSW) has identified ABB populations in the Midwest which exceed initial recovery plan goals, including populations numbering in the thousands in Nebraska and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the ABB population growth has occurred despite very limited recovery projects by the FWS, underscoring how little is known about the ABB and its risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, as the expansion of the range and habitat of the ABB grows, so too does historic mitigation requirements, associated costs, and the diversion of project funds that could be used on critical infrastructure and economic development; and

WHEREAS, despite all of the indications that the ABB is thriving and its listing as an endangered species is no longer necessary to support the ABB population, the FWS has not changed or removed the ABB from its listing; and

WHEREAS, the delisting of the ABB would relieve our County of unnecessary regulation, mitigation, and financial cost,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of County Commissioners of Ottawa County, Oklahoma support and respectfully request the removal of the ABB from the endangered species list under the ESA to free up valuable taxpayer funds for infrastructure projects and economic development vital to our citizen's needs.

Passed and Approved this 20th Day of January, 2015 by the Board of County Commissioners, Ottawa County.

Hary Wynth.
Gary Wyrick, Chairman

Russell Earls, Vice-Chairman

John Clarke, Member

Attest: REBA G. SILL Bis Robum Mitchell
Reba Sill, County Clerk