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September 13, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguilar-Curry  
Assembly Speaker pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 8320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 338 (Aguilar-Curry) Fuel reduction work – OPPOSE  
As Amended September 8, 2023**

Dear Assemblymember Aguilar-Curry:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, writes in regrettable opposition to AB 338, which would require, starting July 1, 2026, contracted fuel reduction work over \$500,000 to require all workers performing work within the an apprentice occupation within the building and construction trades to be paid a least the general prevailing wage.

We continue to be concerned that very little study has been done on the current condition of the forest resilience workforce, including wages and training needs for contractors used by both state and local agencies, to truly understand whether the state can balance its current forest resilience funding commitments with a marked increase in workforce costs.

Experience has shown that, as amended, AB 338, would have the unintended consequence of eliminating local jobs rather than creating them by placing small, local contractors at a competitive disadvantage for fuels reduction work in rural areas. Recent amendments have improved the bill, including by increasing the scope of the projects required to meet the new requirements. However, as the size, scope and complexity of landscape level fuel reduction projects continues to grow, and projects include both public and private lands, the legislation will likely still serve as challenge for projects funded by public dollars.

For these reasons, we must respectfully continue to oppose AB 338. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [cfreeman@counties.org](mailto:cfreeman@counties.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Freeman  
California State Association of Counties