



August 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 2643 (Wood) – SUPPORT – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA), and California Special Districts Association (CDSA), we respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2643 (Wood), which addresses the critical issue of illicit cannabis cultivation and its detrimental impacts on California's natural resources.

Local jurisdictions are on the front lines dealing with environmental degradation from illicit cannabis operators who sidestep regulations and undermine the health and safety of residents and our regulated cannabis businesses. We believe that AB 2643 is an important tool to mitigate the environmental harm caused by illicit cannabis cultivation.

Illicit cannabis cultivation poses a significant threat to the California ecosystem, often leading to habitat destruction, water diversions, and the use of harmful pesticides and fertilizers. Despite efforts to detect and eradicate these cultivation sites, the process of site restoration has been slow. The lack of restoration progress not only perpetuates environmental degradation but also undermines the long-term health and resilience of our natural landscapes.

AB 2643 requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to conduct a study and create a framework for cannabis site restoration, the bill aims to provide guidance for efforts, building on current eradication and reclamation operations. Furthermore, the bill will enhance reconnaissance efforts by assessing the use of new technologies, such as remote sensing and comprehensive mapping capabilities, to identify illicit cultivation sites on public lands. Improving data collection and sharing will enable more targeted and efficient enforcement actions.

AB 2643 represents a crucial opportunity to address the environmental challenges posed by illicit cannabis cultivation and promote the restoration and conservation of California's natural resources. For these reasons, RCRC, CSAC, Cal Cities, CCIA, and CSDA respectfully request your signature on AB 2643.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
RCRC  
[sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org)



Ada Waelder  
Legislative Advocate  
CSAC  
[awaelder@counties.org](mailto:awaelder@counties.org)



Jolena Voorhis  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
Cal Cities  
[jvoorhis@calcities.org](mailto:jvoorhis@calcities.org)



Amy Jenkins  
Legislative Advocate  
CCIA  
[amy@precisionadvocacy.co](mailto:amy@precisionadvocacy.co)



Anthony Tannehill  
Legislative Representative  
CSDA  
[anthonyt@cdda.net](mailto:anthonyt@cdda.net)

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the California State Assembly  
Myles White, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor