



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Damon Connolly  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 388 – SUPPORT  
As Amended May 18, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Connolly:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Assembly Bill 388. This measure would require the Department of Conservation (DOC), in consultation with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), and its member agencies, by January 1, 2025, to establish guidelines and regional investment strategies for larger landscape level projects that contribute to the achievement of the goals of the implementation strategy for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Wildfire risk has now become a statewide public safety concern as the wildland urban interface has spread over larger areas of the state due to climate change and lingering impacts of forests and wildlands that have not been managed to maximize their resilience to drought, wildfire and other extreme conditions. Wildfires are also a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions and compromise the quality and quantity of much of the State's water supply. The health and resilience of our forests and wildlands impacts every Californian, and working to ensure that landscape-scale, regional projects are completed is imperative to the state's overall resilience goals.

AB 388 improves the health of California's forests and wildlands by enabling larger, landscape scale forest resilience projects. DOC already has the structure through the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to advance regional resilience projects; AB 388 would require DOC to further use the program to develop regional investment strategies and regional funding guidelines while enabling CNRA departments and agencies to award block grants to regional entities to implement regional, landscape-scale projects. AB 388 will help expedite widespread forest resilience and wildfire

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mitigation projects to restore ecosystems and landscapes to a healthier, more resilient, wildfire-resistant state.

For these reasons, RCRC supports your AB 388. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [sheaton@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sheaton@rcrcnet.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

STACI HEATON  
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Dave Min, Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Katharine Moore, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water  
Committee  
Todd Moffit, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus