



June 10, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT for SB 1101 (Limón) to Expand the Planning, Implementation, and Assessment of Beneficial Fire

Dear Chair Bryan

On behalf of the California Forestry Association (Calforests); Rural Counties and the Rural Counties of California (RCRC); Forest Landowners of California (FLC); the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA); the California Farm Bureau; and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), we are pleased to write in support of Senate Bill 1101, which would provide for planning to support fire suppression as well as prescribed fire activities, streamline implementation of prescribed fire through easing contracting constraints, and provide consistent state mapping processes for wildfire impacts across the state.

The intensity and frequency of California's wildfires will continue to worsen in an era of a changing climate. As such, there is a growing need for additional and ongoing forest management activities to reduce the extreme impacts to private lands, communities, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and carbon stocks from high intensity wildfires. To be most effective these efforts need to be supported by data driven process and efficiencies in administrative challenges.

Senate Bill 1101 will increase the effectiveness of wildfire prevention efforts by requiring analyses at the landscape level to assist in rapid and aggressive fire suppression, while also helping provide guidance on geographically appropriate locations for prescribed fire that may be conducted in the right time in the right place. This is an effort that would pay dividends for both public and privately managed forestlands statewide.

The state does not currently support a standardized system of data analysis that depicts the impacts and severity of wildfires across the state. In fact, the state appears to often rely upon data provided by the United State Forest Service, but these data may not reflect the unique needs of the state and also does not address all wildfires across the state. SB 1101's requirement for a comprehensive, dedicated and standardized system of data capture, synthesis and reporting on wildfire impacts that specifically address California needs would prove useful and make more efficient the conduct of post fire assessments of impacts to watershed values, communities and [economies](#) from destructive wildfires.

Lastly, the state often relies upon outside parties to assist in land management activities, including the use of prescribed fire. The delay associated with contract processing is a constricting factor in getting this work completed. This is particularly concerning [given the need to treat 500,000 of non-federally managed forestlands](#) on non-federally managed lands for the purposes of fire prevention and forest resiliency has not been met. The efficiencies offered to the contracting process will undoubtedly help to set a trajectory of compliance with state goals and objectives.

Together, these approaches create the framework to expand California's use of beneficial fire to improve the health of the State's landscapes and people. Through these strategies, combined with forest management activities, we can continue to address the unnatural amount and type of vegetation.

For these reasons we are pleased to support Senate Bill 1101.

Sincerely,



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President and CEO
Calforests



Staci Heaton
Senior Policy Representative
Rural County Representatives of California



Don Beaty
President
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