



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 86100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 620 – SUPPORT  
As Amended March 22, 2023**

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Senate Bill 620, which defines and creates standards for “low-impact camping areas” in order to make the outdoors more accessible. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Outdoor recreation hit a record high in 2021 with more than 19 million Californians getting outside.<sup>1</sup> But nearly half of all campers report difficulty finding available campsites<sup>2</sup>. As a result, half of all campers (51%) who started camping in the past few years said they camped less often in 2021 due to overcrowding.<sup>3</sup> There are too few outdoor recreation accommodations for Californians and visitors.

SB 620 would increase affordable access to California’s outdoor destinations, which could provide vital revenue for rural communities that are economically dependent on tourism and recreation. Low-impact camping requires little or no infrastructure and is offered at every price point. This means more Californians can benefit from time outdoors.

SB 620 would also diversify and supplement revenue for California’s small farmers and ranchers. Small farms and ranches are highly desirable locations for low-impact camping. Welcoming campers on working lands connects Californians to agricultural lands and lifestyles while providing sustainable and diverse to our small farmers and

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<sup>1</sup> S Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, [Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2021](#)

<sup>2</sup> [2022 Camping Report, The Dyrt](#)

<sup>3</sup> [KOA North American Camping Report 2022](#)

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ranchers. Low-impact camping is an important diversification strategy for landowners who are working tirelessly to hedge against low commodity prices, higher production costs, drought, wildfires, and more.

Ultimately, SB 620 would create more affordable access to California's outdoor spaces while diversifying and supplementing revenue for farmers and ranchers, both of which are vital to the health of our rural communities. For these reasons, RCRC supports SB 620. 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", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON  
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
Members of the Senate Housing Committee  
Alison Hughes, Chief Consultant, Senate Housing Committee  
Kerry Yoshida, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus