



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 620 (McGuire) – SUPPORT
As Amended April 20, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support Senate Bill 620 (McGuire), 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.¹ But nearly half of all campers report difficulty finding available campsites². 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.³ 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

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

² [2022 Camping Report, The Dyrft](#)

³ [KOA North American Camping Report 2022](#)

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
Senate Bill 620 (McGuire)
June 12, 2023
Page 2

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 respectfully requests your "Aye" vote when this measure is heard before your committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 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 Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
Members of the Assembly Housing & Community Development Committee
Lisa Engel, Chief Consultant, Assembly Housing & Community Development
Committee
William Weber, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus