

March 17, 2023

The Honorable John Laird California State Senate 1021 O Street, Suite 8720 Sacramento, CA 95814

## RE: Senate Bill 39 – SUPPORT As Amended March 9, 2023

Dear Senator Laird:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support your Senate Bill 39, which (1) realigns the six Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) subregions after the addition of Siskiyou and Trinity counties to the SNC boundaries; and (2) includes climate resilience and equity as a stated goal of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in accordance with recent SNC Governing Board actions. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Following the enactment of SB 208 (Dahle, 2021) and as a part of the territorial expansion of the SNC region, the Conservancy was required to make recommendations to change the structure of their subregions. In September of 2022, the SNC's Governing Board unanimously approved to recommend legislation to realign its subregions to include four counties per subregion. This structure will facilitate existing collaboration in counties that tend to work together and have similar characteristics and/or issues, facilitate travel and access for SNC area representatives who frequently conduct inperson, on-the-ground work, ensure that the SNC can provide the same services across the whole region, and balance county representation on the Board.

For these reasons, RCRC supports Senate Bill 39. Please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>sheaton@rcrcnet.org</u> with any questions.

Sincerely,

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STACI HEATON Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Brian Dahle, Member of the California State Senate Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee