



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Moke Simon – District 1

Jeff Smith – District 2

Jim Steele – District 3

Tina Scott – District 4

Rob Brown – District 5

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SUPPORT for AB 2518, an act to add Article 10 (commencing with Section 4630) to Chapter 8 of Part 2 of Division 4 to the Public Resources Code, related to forestry.

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the County of Lake I am pleased to support AB 2518. This bill directs the Natural Resources Agency to promote markets for new and innovative forest products. These products would use wood waste that is generated by forest maintenance designed to prevent devastating fires such as those experienced in Lake County over the last three years.

A major contributor to these fires was the rise of overly dense forests including overgrowth of small diameter trees and prematurely dead and dying trees. This same overcrowding makes trees more susceptible to epidemic infestations of disease and pests such as the bark beetle. Research groups have collectively indicated the need to encourage sustainable harvesting of forest materials like dead and small diameter trees to restore our forests to healthier conditions, to prevent catastrophic wildfires, and to protect watersheds and wildlife.

This bill will promote efforts to address long-term forestry management and tree mortality by directing the Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, to expand wood product markets with innovative public/private partnerships that also support responsible forest management practices.

The state alone cannot support the cost of removal what is essentially kindling for future devastating wildfires. This bill finds ways to incentivize private investment in forest health that not only protects our natural resources and public safety, but also spurs rural economic development.

We are in strong support of AB 2518.

Sincerely,

Jim Steele, Chair