



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee  
No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection,  
Energy & Transportation  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Proposed Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

On behalf of the County of Lake, we offer our strong support for the Governor's proposed Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan (Expenditure Plan). The Expenditure Plan would allocate \$1 billion in the current budget year and 2021-22 to much-needed wildfire prevention and forest management projects.

Wildfire risk has become a much greater concern in Lake County due to the long-overdue need to manage California's vast, overly dense wildlands and impacts of renewed drought conditions across the state. Wildfires are also a significant source of air pollution and compromise the quality and quantity of much of the State's water supply. The health and resilience of our forests and wildlands impacts the residents of Lake County and every other Californian.

Since 2015, greater than 60% of Lake County's land mass has been consumed by wildfire. Additionally, 5.5% of our housing supply was destroyed (the equivalent of nearly 11,000 homes in the City of Sacramento). The repetitive and devastating events Lake County has endured amount to a severe humanitarian crisis, and fiscal challenges and understaffing exacerbated many of those effects.

Sadly, the 2020 wildfire season is a good representation of what the state can expect to see again in 2021, particularly if the state's projected precipitation levels come to pass. The Governor's proposed Expenditure Plan, which includes \$323 million in current budget year expenditures and \$1 billion total, is much more in line with the necessary spending to finally start catching up with our wildfire prevention needs.

The Expenditure Plan contains funding that will be used for important programs that will benefit Lake County residents such as home hardening retrofits for low-income residents, as well as providing grants to communities for fuels treatment projects and community fire hardening efforts such as fuel breaks. It will also jumpstart a move toward establishing an innovative wood products industry in California, vital to the maintenance of wildland fuels treatment.

Finally, the Expenditure Plan will allow the state's forest health agencies to continue working with federal land managers to minimize the threat of wildfire on national forest lands and other federally managed lands.

Our Board strongly believes that the Governor's proposed Expenditure Plan provides the appropriate level of funding to finally jumpstart California's forest health and wildfire prevention goals toward a longer-term solution. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on our support of this item, or would like to discuss further.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bruno Sabatier, Chair

cc: Members of Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental  
Protection, Energy & Transportation  
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, Rural County Representatives  
of California  
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency