



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

May 17, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1260 – SUPPORT
As Amended May 16, 2018**

Dear Senator Lara:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we offer our support for Senate Bill 1260, authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, which would promote the use of prescribed burns for fuels treatment and wildfire prevention statewide. RCRC previously held a “Support if Amended” position on SB 1260, and appreciates the opportunity to work with Senator Jackson and her staff to address and resolve our concerns. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

RCRC member counties contain much of California’s forested lands, including more than 70 percent of the State’s national forest lands. Wildfire risk is no longer just a concern in remote, rural areas, but is becoming a wider public safety concern as the wildland urban interface spreads over larger areas of the State due to climate change and the lingering impacts of the recent five-year drought. Despite the coordinated efforts between State and local governments to mitigate the impacts of wildfire, much work needs to be done throughout the State to bring our forest lands to a healthy, resilient, wildfire-resistant condition.

RCRC believes that prescribed burning is an important tool to help mitigate and prevent the impacts of wildfire, and supports the provisions in SB 1260 to encourage more frequent use of prescribed fire to manage California’s forest lands where feasible and appropriate. RCRC also believes that SB 1260 correlates with goals and programs proposed in the Governor’s May Budget Revision to prevent future wildfires and improve forest health. We strongly support both the Governor’s proposed funding allocations and the provisions in this bill that will ultimately help achieve healthier, more resilient forests. We appreciate the author’s commitment to healthy forests and wildfire prevention, and look forward to continuing to work with Senator Jackson on this effort.

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For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when this measure is heard before your Committee. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON
Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Member of the State Senate
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee