



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

January 24, 2022

The Honorable Vince Fong
California State Assembly
1021 O St., Suite 4630
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 522 – SUPPORT
As Amended January 12, 2022**

Dear Assembly Member Fong:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 522, which extends the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption in the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 to January 1, 2026. RCRC is an association of thirty-eight rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

RCRC member counties contain much of California's forested lands, including more than 80 percent of the state's national forest lands. Communities in RCRC member counties have been repeatedly devastated by catastrophic wildfires over the past decade, and many rely on forests and wildlands for the economic benefits that come from tourism and recreation. It is imperative that land managers and local organizations, including local governments, are able to expeditiously complete forest management projects to mitigate the impacts of catastrophic wildfire on their communities, ecosystems and watersheds. The Forest Fire Prevention Exemption has been a vital tool to help ensure that non-commercial projects on forested lands are initiated and completed in a timely fashion.

By extending the sunset of the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption, AB 522 would help ensure that forest management and wildfire mitigation projects are completed in a timely fashion so that communities can safeguard residents from the impacts of catastrophic wildfires. For the above reasons, RCRC supports AB 522. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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MONTEREY NAPA NEVADA PLACER PLUMAS SAN BENITO SAN LUIS OBISPO SANTA BARBARA SHASTA SIERRA SISKIYOU SONOMA SUTTER TEHAMA TRINITY TULARE TUOLUMNE YOLO YUBA

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

STACI HEATON
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: Members of the California State Assembly
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Emmanuel Aguayo, Consultant, Assembly Democratic Majority Caucus
Marie Liu, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon