



May 20, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of J. Keith Gilles as Member of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of J. Keith Gilles as a member of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, which will come before you and the Senate Rules Committee. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

RCRC member counties contain the vast majority of California's forested lands and have suffered many of the State's most damaging wildfires in the past decade. Our counties have a history and need to work with the State's Board that governs and approves timber management, fire safety planning, and various other aspects of forest land management planning to ensure the public health and safety of our counties' residents through fuels reduction and smart community planning efforts in our most fire prone areas. RCRC staff has already established a strong working relationship with Gilles through his work with the Governor's Forest Management Task Force and the California Climate Action Team, and his willingness to work with local governments on planning and timber harvest issues. As Chair of the Board, Gilles has shown strong leadership and has shepherded the Board through such large-scale undertakings as adoption of the Programmatic Vegetation Treatment Program and the related Environmental Impact Assessment, which will be vital to the State achieving its vegetation management and wildfire prevention goals.

For the above reasons, RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Chair Gilles. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with him into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daron McDaniel", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DARON MCDANIEL
Member, Merced County Board of Supervisors
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
J. Keith Gilles, Chair, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection