



February 12, 2021

The Honorable Luz M. Rivas
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 3126
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 431 (Patterson) – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 4, 2021**

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for Assembly Bill 431, authored by Assembly Member Jim Patterson, which extends the sunset for certain timber harvest plan (THP) exemptions for activities related to cutting or removing trees in compliance with defensible space laws. RCRC is an association of thirty-five 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 70 percent of the State's national forest lands. Many RCRC member counties' residents live in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and must comply with the State's defensible space law in order to protect their homes in the event of wildfire. For those homeowners, many THP requirements are onerous and frankly unnecessary, as THP preparation is primarily intended for commercial timber harvest and large-scale tree removal projects. Requiring homeowners to comply with THP requirements for the purposes of defensible space practices is especially impractical in the wake of recent catastrophic wildfire events, and is a barrier to residents in the wildland urban interface being able to fully safeguard their homes. RCRC supports AB 431, as it will extend the sunset to on THP exemptions to 2026, making it easier for homeowners in the SRA to remove overgrowth, fire-proof their homes and promote compliance with defensible space law.

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.

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

The Honorable Luz M. Rivas
Assembly Bill 431
February 12, 2021
Page 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

STACI HEATON
Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable James Gallagher, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus