The Honorable Henry Stern  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1348 – REMOVAL OF OPPOSITION  
As Amended July 29, 2020

Dear Senator Stern:

On behalf of the Rural County Representative of California (RCRC), we are removing our opposition to your Senate Bill 1348 based on the incorporation of amendments made on July 29, 2020. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

Previously, SB 1348 contained language regarding chaparral and coastal sage scrub plant communities, which would have required the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to reopen the rulemaking for the Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report. The reopening of the rulemaking would have pushed back important vegetation management projects and delay vital programs that would otherwise enable the state to catch up on essential forest health and wildfire prevention goals. RCRC was also concerned with the language extending fire-safe construction requirements to local responsibility area lands by establishing defensible space requirements for unimproved parcels, which could have significant impacts to land use planning and development.

We appreciate your receptiveness and willingness to address our concerns. As such, we are pleased to remove our opposition to SB 1348 now that amendments have been made. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

STACI HEATON  
Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
J. Keith Gilless, Chair, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Matt Dias, Executive Officer, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection