



**Forest Landowners  
OF CALIFORNIA**



**MENDOCINO • HUMBOLDT**  
Redwood Companies

May 13, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 (Resources & Transportation)

**FROM:** California Biomass Energy Alliance  
California Forestry Association  
California Licensed Foresters Association  
Forest Landowners of California  
Humboldt Redwood Company  
Mendocino Redwood Company  
Rural County Representatives of California

**RE:** Budget Request – Fuels Transportation Program: Biomass Energy Facility

**POSITION:** S U P P O R T

The above-captioned organizations support Assembly Member Jim Patterson's request to appropriate \$20 million to the Natural Resources Agency for the purpose of implementing a grant program to offset the cost of transporting fuels to biomass energy facilities. This funding will fill a fiscal hole for communities at risk for wildfires seeking to reduce that risk through fuel reduction. The funds will help these communities that are removing/reducing vegetation hazards and will help ensure the material does not remain on the ground but instead transported to a biomass facility.

California has been prioritizing and investing in vegetation management activities around the state as it is one of the best defenses against wildfire impacts on communities. This is an issue which this subcommittee is well versed. Funding these activities, however, will be an ongoing challenge. Local governments are not fiscally equipped to tackle the problem. This was best demonstrated when the six (and eventually ten) Southern Sierra counties were ground zero for tree mortality in recent years. The budget reserves in these rural counties were dramatically reduced as they were addressing the tree mortality crisis.

This funding request will not solve the problem entirely for every community, but some communities are fortunate enough to have biomass infrastructure in place to take the material and provide a beneficial reuse for it. This grant program will give those communities the added financial incentive needed to perform thorough fuel reductions as well as contribute to the generation of renewable electricity at the same time.

**O V E R>>>**

For the above stated reasons, we ask for your support for the request of Assembly Member Patterson to appropriate \$20 million to the Natural Resources Agency for the purpose of implementing a grant program to offset the cost of transporting fuels to biomass energy facilities.

cc:

The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member of the State Assembly  
Susan Chan, Consultant; Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3 (Resources and Transportation)  
Katie Sperla, Consultant; Assembly Republican Caucus