



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

FLOOR ALERT

To: Members, California State Assembly
From: Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
Date: May 22, 2019
Re: **Assembly Bill 1111 (Friedman) – SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support Assembly Bill 1111, authored by Assembly Member Laura Friedman. This measure would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation with the Office of the Governor. RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

California's rural counties are home to many of the State's diverse and abundant natural resources. Forested lands, desert flora, watersheds, lakes and rivers, fish and wildlife, and minerals are all within the boundaries of RCRC member counties. This diverse landscape provides numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation, including camping, rafting, hunting, fishing, skiing, cycling and hiking. In many of RCRC member counties, tourism based on outdoor recreation is the economic engine of the local economy.

AB 1111 would establish the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. Included among the activities that may be led by the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation is the promotion of an active, healthy lifestyle, and improving the quality of life for all Californians. AB 1111 would also involve interested stakeholders by requiring the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation to create an advisory group to offer advice, expertise, support, and service in carrying out its mission. In particular, we appreciate that AB 1111 anticipates the involvement of representatives from rural areas with a recreation-dependent economy as well as stakeholders from those sectors related to outdoor recreation economy. Simply put, local governments are, ultimately, both the recipient of any recommendations coming from the Office of Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and in a key position to guide what is needed to support a strong outdoor recreation environment at the local level.

The additional focus AB 1111 directs to tourism and outdoor recreation would benefit California's rural counties, many of whom serve as the gateway welcoming visitors to California's state and national parks, as well as other publicly-accessible lands. AB 1111 will assist in promoting these opportunities.

For the reasons stated, RCRC respectfully requests your 'Aye' vote when the bill is heard on the Assembly Floor.

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