



September 3, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 431 (Patterson) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 431. AB 431, authored by Assembly Member Jim Patterson, would extend 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-seven 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.

Again, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on AB 431.

Sincerely,

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable James Gallagher, Member of the State Assembly

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