



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501    PHONE: (707) 476-2390

May 7, 2019

The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
State Capitol, Room 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
State Capitol, Room 4085  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Funding for Redwood Visitor Center Project at Redwood National and State Parks

Dear Chairs Bloom and Wieckowski,

I am writing to express Humboldt County's strong support for the Redwood National and State Parks Visitor Center Project (the Project), being advanced by Save the Redwoods League in partnership with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Park Service. I am pleased to share our enthusiasm for the Project, which will create a world-class visitor experience at Redwood National and State Parks.

More than 31 million visitors from around the world come to see California's redwoods annually, and many flock to Redwood National and State Parks, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Redwood National and State Parks are home to nearly half of the world's remaining old-growth redwoods – a forest of incredible biodiversity, capacity to store carbon, and ability to inspire millions of visitors from around the world. The requested \$10 million in General Fund dollars is needed to support development of this Project, which brings vital investment to underserved North Coast communities, as well as increased restoration and recreation-based jobs for local people.

Located at the southern gateway to Redwood National and State Parks in Humboldt County, the Visitor Center Project would replace the existing Thomas H. Kuchel Visitor Center, which is sited in the tsunami zone and slated for demolition. The new Visitor Center will draw visitors deeper into the redwood forest, where they will learn about tribal traditions and culture, climate change and stewardship, and the intertwined relationship between people, redwoods, and the numerous animal species of the forest. The Visitor Center Project will provide a welcoming, state-of-the-art interpretive experience with unparalleled access to awe-inspiring old-growth redwoods.

According to the 2016 National Park Visitor Spending Effects report, visitation to Redwood National Park in 2016 alone generated more than \$34 million in spending in local communities, and directly supported nearly 550 local jobs. The Project is therefore critical to supporting and growing the vital economic drivers of the local and regional recreational tourism industry. Finally, the Visitor Center Project is of regional and statewide significance, given that it will provide a

dynamic focal point in which to interpret the story of climate change – right within our planet’s most powerful greenhouse gas sequestering forest.

I respectfully ask for your support of \$10 million for the Redwood Visitor Center Project, which will connect visitors from around the world to the peace and beauty of California’s redwood forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Bohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rex" and last name "Bohn" clearly distinguishable.

Chair, Rex Bohn  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors