

April 27, 2026

County of Humboldt  
Board of Supervisors  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Supervisors' Chamber, First Floor

**RE: Agenda Item I(1) AB 2494 Support**

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Information Center, I ask that you support AB 2494 as it updates the statute governing state forests to promote wildfire resilience and biodiversity conservation efforts. This bill recognizes that working forest lands with a restoration purpose can count towards statewide conservation goals, fight climate change, and support rural economies.

**Impacts on Forest Management and Wildfire Resilience**

The bill explicitly establishes wildfire resilience and improved ecological outcomes as the primary goals of forest management in section 4639 — it does not prohibit timber harvesting or any other forest management technique that advances those goals. Rather than restricting management activity, the bill aims to increase restoration and wildfire resilience efforts to the areas of these forests where they are most needed. Supporters of the bill such as the Mendocino County Volunteer Fire Department and former CAL FIRE Fire Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal Mark Mondragon demonstrate that fire resiliency is an essential component to updating forest management objectives on a statewide level.

**Research and Demonstration Forest Purpose**

EPIC is working with researchers both opposed to and in support of AB 2494 to address concerns about research opportunities. EPIC will suggest amendments to the bill's author that enshrine the research purpose of demonstration state forests. As currently written, the bill brings research to the forefront by including a finding that expresses a need for demonstration of wildfire resiliency, biodiversity conservation, and climate change responses in Section 4631 (a). The bill also includes research in the definition of management in Section 4639. Prior to the bill, research was not included in the definition of management

**Economic and Local Impacts**

Sustainable forestry supports local economies, which is why timber harvesting is included as a tool to achieve biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience in 4339 (b). Economic analysis by Dr. Evan Mills also suggests that a restoration-based approach will create more jobs and provide more budget stability than the current model, which is needed for rural communities and CAL FIRE.

**Tribal Co-Management and Alignment with Restoration**

This bill will ensure that comanagement is fully realized within state forests, and it is important that these objectives to include traditional ecological knowledge are codified to guide future management decisions. Tribal governments in support of the bill have highlighted the importance of a restoration-based approach that creates a more holistic view of forest management aside from just commercial timber harvest.

We have attached letters of support from Mendocino County, environmental organizations, outdoor recreation groups, and tribal governments for your reference. Thank you for your leadership and for proposing a letter to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Melodie Meyer, Conservation Attorney  
Environmental Protection Information Center



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan, Chair  
 Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
 California State Assembly

State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for AB 2494: State Demonstration Forest Bill**

Dear Chair Bryan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 43 undersigned non-governmental organizations, this letter expresses our strong support for Assembly Bill 2494, the State Demonstration Forest Bill.

California's 30x30 initiative seeks to conserve 30% of land and coastal waters by the year 2030. We currently have successfully conserved 26.1% of California's lands and 21.9% of its coastal waters under durable conservation plans, and have less than 4 million acres of land and 283,000 acres of coastal waters left to reach our goal. AB 2494 will help achieve our conservation goals on the lands side by removing the legislative mandate that State Demonstration Forests be commercially logged, and aligning these forests with the state's standards of conservation under 30x30.

California's Demonstration State Forests span approximately 85,000 acres across our Golden State, and represent an extraordinary opportunity to model climate-resilient land stewardship, ecological restoration, enhanced outdoor access, and inclusive governance. California's Demonstration State Forests were established in the 1940s in order to demonstrate the commercial timber harvest techniques to landowners. Since then, the impacts of commercial timber harvest have been realized and the priorities for state management have changed. This bill modernizes state forest policy by updating outdated statutes and aligning management practices with California's climate, biodiversity, and equity goals.

We strongly support the bill's repeal of legacy provisions that prioritize industrial logging and mining in demonstration forests. In their place, the bill establishes a forward-looking framework that centers biodiversity conservation, fire resilience, outdoor access, and environmental restoration. In particular, this bill would require commercial timber harvesting to occur only where it aligns with ecological restoration or research. This change would ensure that these forests function as living laboratories for sustainable land management.

This bill also demonstrates a commitment to tribal co-governance and stewardship. Requiring CalFire to seek opportunities for co-management and to integrate local Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a meaningful step toward strengthening tribal sovereignty, honoring cultural heritage, and improving ecological outcomes. Indigenous stewardship practices have long demonstrated success in enhancing forest health, biodiversity, and wildfire resilience; outcomes that are essential to achieving California's 30x30 conservation objectives.

AB 2494 appropriately refocuses CalFire's energy to manage demonstration forests for biodiversity and climate resilience while preserving their core purposes of research, education, and sustainable forestry. Continued public access for recreation, including hunting, fishing,

foraging, and camping, ensures these lands remain shared resources that benefit all Californians.

We appreciate the bill's recognition of the ecological and educational importance that demonstration forests have. By supporting timber research, encouraging partnerships with local governments, and addressing development impacts on surrounding communities, the legislation balances conservation with long-term community benefits.

Finally, this bill strengthens the forest system's financial footing by enabling support from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund. With this revenue stream, the demonstration forest system can sustain the research, restoration, infrastructure, and public-serving mission that Californians expect.

AB 2494 represents a critical shift away from commercial extraction toward ecological restoration. It strengthens tribal partnerships, advances climate resilience, and aligns state forest management with California's commitment to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gluesenkamp  
President  
California Institute for Biodiversity

Ector Olivares  
Program Manager- Environmental Justice  
Catholic Charities of Stockton

Andria Ventura  
Legislative and Policy Director  
Clean Water Action

Chance Cutrano  
Director of Programs  
Resource Renewal Institute

Mari Galloway  
California Program Director  
Wildlands Network

Daniel O'Connell  
Executive Director  
Central Valley Partnership

Dan Silver  
Executive Director  
Endangered Habitats League

Kim Kolpin  
Executive Director  
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Shannon Olivieri Hovis  
Chief Strategy Officer  
California Environmental Voters

Barbara Brydolf  
President  
Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant  
Society

Pamela Heatherington  
Board of Directors  
Environmental Center of San Diego

Frazier Haney  
Executive Director  
The Wildlands Conservancy

Cynthia Graves Perrine  
Executive Director  
Northern California Regional Land Trust

Jann Dorman  
Executive Director  
Friends of the River

Kimberly Baker  
Executive director  
Klamath Forest Alliance

Jenny Hatch  
Executive Director  
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Daniel Chandler, Ph.D.  
Steering Committee Member  
350 Humboldt

Nick Joslin  
Policy and Advocacy Director  
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Michael Wellborn  
Board President  
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks

Suzanne Hume  
Educational Director & Founder  
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Ellie Cohen  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Climate Center

Sean Zweifler  
Chapter President  
California Native Plant Society - Sequoia  
Chapter

Justin Crellin  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Lost Coast

Alicia Bales  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

Garrett Costello  
President  
Symbiotic Restoration

Jim Lindburg  
Legislative Consultant  
Friends Committee on Legislation of  
California

Gary Hughes  
Co-Director / Americas Program  
Coordinator  
Biofuelwatch

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat  
Urban Wildlands Policy Specialist  
Center for Biological Diversity

Sarah Erlich, Esq.  
Policy Advisor  
Center for Environmental Health

Nick Jensen  
Conservation Program Director  
California Native Plant Society

Greg King  
Executive Director  
Siskiyou Land Conservancy

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs  
Executive Director  
Environmental Action Committee of West  
Marin

Jose Francisco Manzo  
Conservation Program Lead  
Council of Mexican Federations in North  
America (COFEM)

Juan Rosas  
Lands and Nature Manager  
Hispanic Access Foundation

Emely Garcia  
Legislative Advocate  
Natural Resources Defense Council

André Sanchez  
Community Engagement & Conservation  
Policy Manager  
CalWild

Suzie Savoie  
Volunteer  
Siskiyou Crest Coalition

Jazzari Taylor  
Policy Advocate  
Latino Outdoors

Steve Kleinman  
Forest Working Group Leader  
Grassroots Institute of Mendocino County -  
Forest Working Group

Traci Pellar  
President  
Mendocino Producers Guild

Katie Hawkins  
California Policy Manager  
Trout Unlimited

Janet McGarry  
350 Bay Area Action  
Legislative Analyst

Pedro Hernandez  
California State Program Director  
GreenLatinos



**CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PARTNERSHIP**

March 14, 2026

The Honorable Isaac G. Bryan  
California State Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Bryan,

On behalf of California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP) and our Board of Directors, we would like to express our full support for **AB 2494 - The State Demonstration Forest Bill**, introduced by Assemblymember Chris Rogers. As an organization dedicated to increasing direct investment in outdoor recreation programs, improved stewardship, and equitable access to outdoor recreation for all Californians, we are excited for what AB 2494 has to offer our state's Demonstration Forest System and its contribution to the state's goal towards reaching 30x30.

AB 2494 will positively affect how Demonstration State Forests are used by our community, and we support the provisions that the bill includes. It will prioritize managing these forests for conservation of biodiversity and public access, leading to increased opportunities for recreation. These changes will provide economic benefits for local outdoor recreation groups and stores. Outdated provisions allowing for extractive commercial logging and mining will be removed, and new provisions will establish co-governance with local Tribes to become joint land stewards. By mandating local Traditional Ecological Knowledge be integrated into land management practices, climate and wildfire resilience will be improved, protecting these forests for recreation tourism. This bill can transform Demonstration State Forests to demonstrate how to responsibly manage our precious biodiversity hotspots while simultaneously increasing access for outdoor recreation. By focusing on ecological restoration, research, and co-governance with tribes, these forests will be a living example to the world on how to live with and honor the health of the land and tribal cultural lifeways.

Several Demonstration State Forests are currently widely used by outdoor enthusiasts. Restoring the forest and protecting larger areas for wildlife and water quality could expand opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, camping, mountain biking, foraging, horseback riding, and more recreation opportunities, as well as provide new sources of revenue from expanded eco-tourism. As people who love outdoor recreation, we are excited to think about what benefits the increased ecosystem health will bring to the entire state. It also moves California towards meeting its own established climate, biodiversity and equity goals. Protecting the 85,000-acre demonstration forest system goes a long way towards reaching 30% of land protected in California by 2030 in alignment with

30x30. It also increases access to outdoor space and recreation, while protecting our global climate by conserving standing forests. For all these very positive reasons, we request that you recommend to the Committee to support AB 2494.

California is home to the nation's largest active outdoor industry economy, contributing 589,354 direct jobs to California and representing 2.2% of our state's GDP at \$87.9 billion, while supporting active lifestyles, community health and wellness, and a shared love for California's majestic outdoors. California Outdoor Recreation Partnership (CORP) represents over 80 companies and organizations within California and advocates for policy and funding in support of the active outdoor recreation industry. CORP educates legislators about the role that our industry plays in improving economic opportunity, community health and welcoming a diversity of outdoor enthusiasts across our great state. In this capacity, we look forward to further working with you.

Best regards,



Lexie Gritlefeld  
Director  
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership



Yvonne Leow  
Board Chair  
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership  
CEO, Bewilder



Apr 9, 2026

Honorable Isaac Bryan  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
1021 O Street, Rm 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2494 (Rogers) State Demonstration Forest Bill - Support**

On behalf of Sierra Club California's more than 500,000 members and supporters statewide, I write to express our strong support for **Assembly Bill 2494, the State Demonstration Forest Bill**.

California's 30×30 initiative seeks to conserve 30% of land and coastal waters by the year 2030. We currently have successfully conserved 26.1% of California's lands and 21.9% of its coastal waters under durable conservation plans, and have less than 4 million acres of land and 283,000 acres of coastal waters left to reach our goal. **AB 2494** will help achieve our conservation goals on the lands side by removing the legislative mandate that State Demonstration Forests be commercially logged, and aligning these forests with the state's standards of conservation under 30×30.

California's Demonstration State Forests span approximately 85,000 acres across our Golden State, and represent an extraordinary opportunity to model climate-resilient land stewardship, ecological restoration, enhanced outdoor access, and inclusive governance. California's Demonstration State Forests were established in the 1940s in order to demonstrate the commercial timber harvest techniques to landowners. Since then, the impacts of commercial timber harvest have been realized and the priorities for state management have changed. This bill modernizes state forest policy by updating outdated statutes and aligning management practices with California's climate, biodiversity, and equity goals.

We strongly support the bill's repeal of legacy provisions that prioritize industrial logging and mining in demonstration forests. In their place, the bill establishes a forward-looking framework that centers biodiversity conservation, fire resilience, outdoor access, and environmental restoration. In particular, this bill would require commercial timber harvesting to occur only where it aligns with biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. This change would ensure that these forests function as living laboratories for sustainable land management.

This bill also demonstrates a commitment to tribal co-governance and stewardship. Requiring CalFire to seek opportunities for co-management and to integrate local Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a meaningful step toward strengthening tribal sovereignty, honoring cultural heritage, and improving ecological outcomes. Indigenous stewardship practices have long demonstrated success in enhancing forest health, biodiversity, and wildfire resilience; outcomes that are essential to achieving California's 30x30 conservation objectives.

**AB 2494** appropriately refocuses CalFire's energy to manage demonstration forests for biodiversity and climate resilience while preserving their core purposes of research, education, and sustainable forestry. Continued public access for recreation, including hunting, fishing, foraging, and camping, ensures these lands remain shared resources that benefit all Californians.

We appreciate the bill's recognition of the ecological and educational importance that demonstration forests have. By supporting timber research, encouraging partnerships with local governments, and addressing development impacts on surrounding communities, the legislation balances conservation with long-term community benefits.

Finally, this bill strengthens the forest system's financial footing by enabling support from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund. With this revenue stream, the demonstration forest system can sustain the research, restoration, infrastructure, and public-serving mission that Californians expect.

**AB 2494** represents a critical shift away from commercial extraction toward ecological restoration. It strengthens tribal partnerships, advances climate resilience, and aligns state forest management with California's commitment to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your "AYE" vote

Sincerely,



Mercedes Macias  
Senior Policy Strategist, Sierra Club California

March 23, 2026

Support for AB 2494

As a Registered Professional Forester and a retired UC Academic, I have 40 years of experience with forestry issues in California. I started my career at Simpson Timber Company, now Green Diamond, in the 1980's. I have work experience with non-industrial timberland owners through my 27 year career with UC ANR. I am a trained mediator and facilitator and have worked on multiple forestry and other land management conflicts throughout my career on private and public lands in Northern California forests and rangelands. I was Co-Chair with Chair Thomas Dunne for the Freshwater Cumulative Effects Watershed Report, released in 1999. I served on the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) for over 10 years and briefly served on State BOF. I also briefly facilitated the JDSF Advisory Group (JAG) at the request of CalFire to help them better address the conflicts with the public, the JAG and JDSF leadership. I resigned when CalFire refused to work with me, as promised, towards a collaborative approach to addressing the conflicts at JDSF and released a public agenda I did not support and would not facilitate.

AB 2494 proposes a change in mandatory mission for JDSF and all the state research forests, to focus on maximizing public benefits across many sectors and interests and not maximum timber production. Based on my experience, the industry does not look to JDSF or the other research forests to inform their Timber Harvesting Plans or to inform their approach to achieve maximum timber production on their properties. The industry does a great job at maximizing timber production on their lands, overall. They could use research, and demonstration forests that demonstrate how to achieve timber production goals while simultaneously restoring roads and streams, reducing fire risks and related hazards, retaining existing Perpetually Enduring Trees (as defined by Dr. Steve Sillett), achieving maximum biodiversity, etc. I would hope the industry would see this proposed change in the mandate for JDSF and the other research forests as a positive change that could advance shared goals for all landowners in California, private and public, rather than some sort of threat to their current operations. Unfortunately, I predict the industry and some private landowners, may fear this change in mandate on the State Research Forests may result in increased future regulations and other obstacles to their timber production goals. And, honestly, I can understand this concern from their perspective. I understand that everyone has a piece of the truth to share in these

complex efforts. And these conversations are critical to understanding and addressing these issues.

AB 2494 also acknowledges the importance of working with local tribes and addresses co-governance to advance this critical work.

The Advisory groups for the research forests can serve as the place for deliberative dialogue on how the results at the research forests may inform future regulations and/or updated future policies.

AB 2494 also addresses the fiscal support necessary to make these proposed changes feasible, while also addressing some of the challenges the State has had with implementation of AB 1492. These bills require strong and committed leadership from the CNRA Secretary and all the Agency Directors and staff working together on these shared public trust issues in order to be successful.

I am grateful to Assemblyman Rogers, his staff and all the public who have worked together to develop AB 2494 and I wish you every success in moving this forward.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Kimberly A. Rodrigues, PhD

RPF 2326



The Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay  
2570 N. First Street, 2nd Floor, #1035  
San Jose, CA 95131

[Muwekma.org](http://Muwekma.org)  
[muwekma@muwekma.org](mailto:muwekma@muwekma.org)  
408-852-1677

[MuwekmaFoundation.org](http://MuwekmaFoundation.org)  
[info@muwekmafoundation.org](mailto:info@muwekmafoundation.org)

April 14th, 2026

Assemblymember Chris Rogers  
State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Room 5130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for AB 2494 – Modernizing Our State Forests System**

Dear Assemblymember Rogers,

On behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, I write to express our strong and unequivocal support for AB 2494, which seeks to modernize the management of California's State Demonstration Forests.

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe represents the known surviving lineages of the Indigenous peoples aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region. Our ancestors trace their lineage through the historic Missions Dolores, Santa Clara, and San José, and many were enrolled members of the federally recognized Verona Band of Alameda County. Our ancestral territory encompasses San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties, as well as portions of Napa, Santa Cruz, Solano, and San Joaquin Counties. For thousands of years, our people have maintained a deep, spiritual, and reciprocal relationship with the forests, waterways, and ecosystems of Central California—a connection that continues to sustain our tribal members today.

For nearly 80 years, California's State Demonstration Forest System has operated under an outdated framework that prioritized industrial timber production over ecological health, cultural values, and long-term sustainability. Established during a time when Tribes were systematically prevented from practicing our traditional stewardship, and when forests were viewed as limitless resources, this system no longer reflects the values or scientific understanding of our time. While California has made important progress in recognizing Tribal sovereignty and the critical role of Indigenous knowledge in land management, the governing statutes for our Demonstration Forests remain rooted in an era of extractive practices.

Soquel Demonstration State Forest, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains within our ancestral territory, offers a clear example. This approximately 2,600-acre forest of coastal redwoods and Douglas fir sits in a region of great ecological sensitivity, including threatened coho salmon habitat and vital water supply watersheds. For generations, the Ohlone people have maintained cultural and spiritual relationships with these lands since time immemorial. Yet under current law, management has been unduly constrained by an industrial timber model that is ill-suited to the forest's ecological needs and cultural significance. A more holistic, restorative approach is long overdue.

Similarly, Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest in Napa County—near our ancestral homelands—encompasses approximately 800 acres of mixed conifer forest. This forest supports important recreational uses, including scenic mountain biking trails, and features native species such as manzanita. It has also served as a site for CAL FIRE’s prescribed burn projects, demonstrating more fire-resilient management practices.

AB 2494 represents a historic opportunity to bring the State Demonstration Forest System into the 21st century. The bill would modernize the management mandate for forests such as Soquel and Las Posadas, removing outdated provisions that enable commercial logging and mining while establishing a framework centered on ecological health, biodiversity conservation, public benefit, and Tribal cultural values. Most importantly, AB 2494 directs CAL FIRE to pursue co-governance agreements with local Tribes and to meaningfully integrate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge into forest management decisions. These changes will enhance climate resilience, improve wildfire preparedness, protect biodiversity, and honor the sovereign rights of California’s Indigenous peoples.

**We also urge you to support the inclusion of strong Tribal contracting and procurement preferences for all services, management, and harvesting opportunities involving State Forests located on aboriginal tribal lands.** Such preferences are essential to ensuring that Tribes can meaningfully participate in the stewardship and restoration of our ancestral territories. Furthermore, it is critical that these opportunities and co-governance provisions extend equally to wrongfully unrecognized California Tribes, treating them on the same basis as federally recognized Tribes. True equity in forest management requires that all California Tribes with ancestral ties to these lands be afforded equal standing, regardless of current federal recognition status. I would be happy to suggest the language below:

*SEC. 8. Section 4651 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:*

*4651. (a) The management of state forests and the cutting and sale of timber and other forest products from state forests shall conform to regulations prepared by the director and approved by the board.*

*(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, California Native American Tribes shall have a determinative preference in any procurement contract, bidding process, request for proposal (RFP) solicitation, or other expenditure, operation, or harvesting of state forests, or portions thereof, located upon their aboriginal lands, including the right to perform on such contracts, bids, or solicitations. For purposes of this subdivision, “California Native American Tribes” means both federally recognized tribes and non-federally recognized tribes listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission pursuant to subdivision (n) of Section 5097.94 of this code. “Aboriginal lands” means the traditional ancestral territory of the tribe as recognized by the Native American Heritage Commission or otherwise documented in tribal records.*

*(c) The determinative preference required by subdivision (b) shall mean that a qualifying tribe (or its designated tribal enterprise or entity) shall be awarded the contract, bid, or solicitation opportunity if the tribe demonstrates the capacity and intent to perform the work in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and standards established by the board and the director. In cases of overlapping or competing aboriginal land claims by multiple tribes, the director shall consult with the Native American Heritage Commission and the affected tribes to equitably apply this preference.*

*(d) This section does not limit the authority of the board or the director to impose additional requirements for public health, safety, environmental protection, sustainable forest management, or compliance with other state or federal laws.*

*(This proposed amendment preserves the existing language of Section 4651 in subdivision (a) while adding new mandatory tribal preference provisions in subdivisions (b)–(d) to implement the requested policy. It is drafted in standard California legislative format for easy introduction as part of a bill.)*

\*\*\*

This legislation is a meaningful step toward true co-governance and the recognition that Indigenous stewardship practices—sustained since time immemorial—offer proven solutions for healthy, resilient ecosystems. However, for co-governance to succeed in practice, the State must also commit to building Tribal capacity through sustained funding, training, and technical assistance. Should the opportunity arise, we respectfully encourage amendments that would expand Tribal contracting preferences, including for cultural burning and other restoration activities. If such provisions are not feasible in this bill, we ask that the Legislature address this critical need in future legislation.

The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe strongly supports AB 2494 because it updates the mission of California’s State Demonstration Forests to meet the challenges and opportunities of our time—centering Tribal sovereignty, ecological restoration, wildfire resilience, biodiversity protection, public access, and climate solutions.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you and CAL FIRE to ensure these forests are stewarded in a manner that honors our shared responsibilities to future generations.

Sincerely,



Charlene Nijmeh  
President, Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation  
Chairwoman, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe

April 13, 2026

**Assemblymember Chris Rogers**

State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Room 5130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for AB 2494 – Modernizing Our State Forests System**

Dear Assemblymember Rogers,

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band writes to express our strong and unequivocal support for AB 2494, Modernizing Our State Forests System. As the original stewards of these lands, our Tribe has a deep and enduring connection to the forests, waterways, and ecosystems of Central California—a connection that predates statehood by thousands of years. AB 2494 represents a historic opportunity to realign the management of California’s State Demonstration Forests with the values of ecological health, Tribal sovereignty, and long-term public benefit.

For nearly 80 years, the State Demonstration Forest System has prioritized timber production over environmental, cultural, and community values. The system was created at a time when many believed California’s forest resources were inexhaustible and private lands were clearcut with little consideration for future generations. Today, California has enacted stronger laws and safeguards to prevent those destructive practices—yet the Demonstration Forests’ legal framework remains dangerously outdated, continuing to emphasize industrial timber production and constraining these forests from delivering the full suite of benefits they should provide to all Californians.

Soquel Demonstration State Forest, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains and encompassing approximately 2,600 acres of coastal redwood and Douglas fir forest, illustrates both the promise and the limitations of the current system. This forest sits within the ancestral territory of the Amah Mutsun people, who have maintained cultural and spiritual relationships with these lands since time immemorial. Under existing law, Soquel’s management has been constrained by an industrial timber framework ill-suited to the ecological sensitivity of the region. The forest’s proximity to threatened coho salmon habitat, its role as a critical water supply watershed, and its value as a biodiversity refuge demand a more holistic and restorative management approach. AB 2494 would give CAL FIRE the modern authority and mandate needed to manage Soquel—and forests like it—as the complex, living ecosystems they are, while creating pathways for the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to participate meaningfully in stewardship decisions on our ancestral lands.

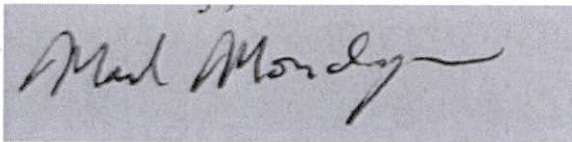
AB 2494 meaningfully modernizes the Demonstration State Forests to better reflect current needs and values, and we support its provisions in full. The bill removes outdated authorities that enable extractive commercial logging and mining, and it establishes a stronger, more appropriate foundation for stewardship rooted in ecological health, cultural values, and public benefit. Critically, AB 2494 directs CAL FIRE to seek co-governance agreements with local Tribes—creating pathways for joint stewardship and shared decision-making. By requiring the integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge into management practices, the bill will strengthen climate and wildfire resilience, improve forest health, and protect these lands for generations to come.

AB 2494 also demonstrates a genuine commitment to Tribal co-governance and stewardship by requiring CAL FIRE to actively pursue opportunities for co-management and to integrate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge in forest management. This is a meaningful step toward strengthening Tribal sovereignty, honoring cultural heritage, and improving ecological outcomes. Indigenous stewardship practices have sustained healthy ecosystems since time immemorial. If California is serious about advancing co-governance, it must also support Tribal capacity through sustained funding, training, and technical assistance so that Tribes can participate fully and equitably as partners. We urge the State to continue building that partnership alongside the policy changes this bill makes possible.

This bill can transform Demonstration State Forests into true demonstration landscapes—showing how to responsibly manage biodiversity hotspots while expanding access for and stewardship by Tribal Nations. By prioritizing ecological restoration, research, and co-governance with Tribes, these forests can serve as living examples of how to care for the land while honoring Tribal cultural lifeways. AB 2494 will also support rural economies by refocusing management toward restoration work that relies on local forestry workers, research institutions, and Tribal communities.

In closing, we support AB 2494 because it updates the mission of the State Demonstration Forests to meet this moment—centering Tribal sovereignty, biodiversity conservation, wildfire resilience, public access, environmental restoration, and climate resilience. For these reasons, we respectfully urge an “AYE” vote on AB 2494.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Mark Mondragon" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Mondragon, Tribal Councilmember  
**Amah Mutsun Tribal Band**



# InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

P.O. Box 1523 Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone (707) 468-9500 [www.sinkyone.org](http://www.sinkyone.org)

*InterTribal Protection of Traditional Lands and Waters*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mariah Rosales**  
Chairwoman  
Potter Valley Tribe

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**Melinda Hunter**  
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**Suzanne Romero**  
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**Michelle Downey**  
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Round Valley  
Indian Tribes

**Stacey Phillips**  
Member  
Sherwood Valley Rancheria  
of Pomo Indians

## STAFF

**Buffie Campbell**  
Executive Director

## RESOLUTION NO. 2-11-2026-01

### RESOLUTION OF THE INTERTRIBAL SINKYONE WILDERNESS COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF AB 2494 PRIORITIZE TRIBAL CO-MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS

WHEREAS, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council (hereinafter the Council or Sinkyone Council), founded in 1986, is an incorporated non-profit Tribal environmental organization comprised of ten sovereign, federally-recognized California Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Council's Board of Directors is authorized to conduct activities for the benefit of the organization and its constituent Tribes and Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council advocates for the sovereignty, recognition, respect, and protection of its constituent Tribes and their Tribal cultural values, including the inherent right and responsibility of Tribes to protect and care for their communities, ways of life, and the lands, airs and waters of their traditional territories; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) currently manages California's Demonstration State Forests system, comprising 14 different forests spanning approximately 85,000 acres, and under existing law (beginning at Section 4631 of the Public Resources Code "State Forest") CalFire must use forest management practices to primarily achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality forest products, while giving secondary consideration to recreation, watershed, and wildlife values; and

WHEREAS, Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) is the largest state owned forest in California, and is the ancestral territory of the Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki Peoples who have lived on and managed the land since time immemorial, and their stewardship was the cause of the healthy old-growth forest that existed prior to European colonization, and the JDSF contains cultural sites that are sacred to the Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki Peoples, and the world is experiencing a climate crisis caused by excessive greenhouse gasses including carbon dioxide, and coast redwood trees like those grown in Jackson Demonstration State Forest are capable of sequestering and storing significant amounts of carbon; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2014 Governor Newsom signed AB 52 into law which establishes a process for government-to-government consultation and requires lead agencies reviewing a project under the California Environmental Quality Act to consider whether a project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Lands which made it the policy of the State of California to seek opportunities to support California tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands that are under the control of the State of California, and on October 7th, 2020 Governor Newsom Signed EXECUTIVE ORDER N-16 82-20 which set a goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and

**InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a Nonprofit Consortium of California Indian Tribes**

• *Conservation of Cultural Lands & Waters* • *Tribal Traditional Stewardship* • *Cultural Ecology Education*

waters by the year 2030, otherwise known as 30x30, and on September 16th, 2022 Governor Newsom signed AB 2278 into law, which enshrined the 30x30 goal into law; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020 the Sinkyone Council passed Resolution 11-10-2020-01 in support of the federal 30x30 campaign, and is committed through that resolution to working with federal partners to ensure the success of the 30x30 policy goals to safeguard the natural environmental while strengthening Government-to-Government relationships with Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2024 Governor Newsom signed AB 1284 into law which memorializes the policy directive on Native American Ancestral Lands in part by encouraging the California Natural Resources Agency, and its departments, to enter into co-governance and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes in California, and co-governance and co-management agreements are important tools for the State to acknowledge and address the historical displacement and dislocation of tribal nations from their ancestral lands, waters, and lifeways; and

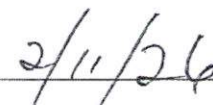
WHEREAS, on February 20, 2026 California Assemblymember Chris Rogers introduced AB 2494 which modernizes policies for state demonstration forest management to prioritize tribal co-management and local indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, environmental restoration, climate resilience, and outdoor access.

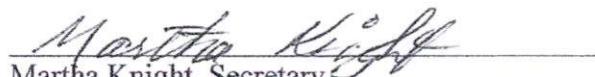
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council supports AB 2494, supporting tribal co-management and integration of local indigenous traditional ecological knowledge for Demonstration State Forests, supports increased conservation of Demonstration State Forests in accordance with the 30x30 goal, supports increased restoration forestry projects to heal State Forests, and calls on Tribal Nations and other Tribal organizations to support this bill.

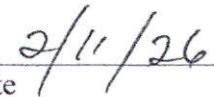
Certification

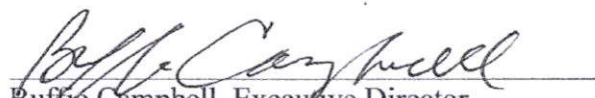
The foregoing Resolution 2-11-2026-01 was adopted on the Eleventh Day of February 2026 by the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council's Board of Directors at a duly convened board meeting conducted in person and via Zoom. This further certifies Resolution No 2-11-2026-01 was adopted by a vote of \_\_\_ For; \_\_\_ Against; \_\_\_ Abstaining, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect unless and until rescinded by subsequent Resolution.

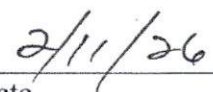
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mariah Rosales, Chairwoman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Knight, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Buffy Campbell, Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a Nonprofit Consortium of California Indian Tribes**

**• Conservation of Cultural Lands & Waters • Tribal Traditional Stewardship • Cultural Ecology Education**

**Dr. Will Russell**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies  
San José State University  
One Washington Square, San José, CA 95192  
will.russell@sjsu.edu

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April 3, 2026

Dear Assemblymember Chris Rogers,

I am writing in strong support of Assembly Bill 2494. As a researcher at San José State University who studies ecosystem restoration and forest ecology, I have a deep professional and scientific interest in how California's demonstration state forests are managed. AB 2494 represents a timely and necessary modernization of the principles governing these lands — one that will meaningfully advance the science of forest restoration and strengthen the ecological resilience of California's forested landscapes.

Rigorous, place-based research is essential to understanding how forests recover from disturbance, respond to climate change, and support biodiversity. California's 14 demonstration state forests, managed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), are among the most scientifically valuable public lands in the state. Their size, geographic diversity, and history of documented management make them irreplaceable sites for restoration ecology research. Studies conducted on these lands have informed forest management practices across the western United States, and their continued availability for scientific inquiry is critical to advancing our understanding of how forests can be managed to support both ecological integrity and long-term climate resilience.

One of the most significant — and often overlooked — contributions AB 2494 could make to forest science is the establishment and long-term protection of forest areas that serve as ecological controls. In any rigorous experimental framework, control areas are indispensable: they allow researchers to distinguish the effects of management interventions from broader ecological dynamics such as climate variability, drought, pest pressure, and succession. Currently, demonstration state forests lack formal protection from timber harvest over the long timescales needed to conduct meaningful comparative studies. AB 2494's emphasis on ecological restoration and its expansion of management objectives beyond timber production creates the policy foundation needed for such controls to be designated and maintained. Long-term reference forests are not a luxury — they are a scientific necessity for evaluating restoration outcomes and developing evidence-based management strategies.

I want to be clear that AB 2494 does not constrain research on California's demonstration state forests — it strengthens it. The bill explicitly preserves and elevates the research and demonstration mission of these lands, and by broadening management objectives to include restoration, climate resilience, and biodiversity, it actively expands the range of scientific questions that can be meaningfully studied on these sites. Researchers studying active restoration techniques, carbon sequestration, fire ecology, wildlife habitat recovery, and old-growth dynamics will all find

greater opportunity under the framework this bill establishes. Far from limiting scientific inquiry, AB 2494 aligns the management of demonstration forests with the full breadth of ecological research that California urgently needs.

California faces compounding environmental challenges — intensifying wildfire, accelerating biodiversity loss, and a rapidly shifting climate. Meeting these challenges requires the best available science, and that science depends on well-managed, long-term research landscapes. AB 2494 takes a critical step toward ensuring that California's demonstration state forests can fulfill their potential as world-class sites for restoration research and ecological inquiry. I urge your continued support for this bill.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Will Russell**

Assistant Professor, Ecosystem Restoration

Department of Environmental Studies

San José State University



Outlook

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## Public Comment Agenda Item I.1.

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**From** Melodie Meyer <melodie@wildcalifornia.org>

**Date** Mon 4/27/2026 5:03 PM

**To** COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

 1 attachment (6 MB)

HumCoSupport11.pdf;

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached comment, on Agenda Item I1.

Thank you,

Melodie Meyer

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Melodie Meyer (Pueblo of Laguna) | (she/her)

Conservation Attorney

Environmental Protection Information Center

145 G. St., Suite A

Arcata, CA 95521

[wildcalifornia.org](http://wildcalifornia.org)

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**AB2494**

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**From** ruthibrown@aol.com <ruthibrown@aol.com>

**Date** Mon 4/27/2026 4:39 PM

**To** COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regard to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years, constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that emphasizes tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access versus profit-driven logging in state forests. This bill provides a clear pathway to providing a much needed update to the framework of management for all Demonstration State Forests. AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE's Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund, and allow lands to count towards California's 30x30 conservation goals. Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests, but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

This is a bill with great support from many of us living on the North Coast. I hope you can join us in support of this bill by submitting your letter of support.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Brown

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS



Outlook

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**Public Comment on AB 2494**

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From Kathryn Travers <travers6271@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 4:04 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that centers tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access as opposed to profit-driven logging in state forests. AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE'S Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and allow lands to count towards California's 30X30 conservation goals. Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests...but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

This is a bill with great support from many of us on the North Coast. I hope you can join us in support of this bill by submitting your letter of support.

Thank you for your time and dedication to our community.

Kathryn Travers

Eureka

AB 2494

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From PatriciaAnne WinterSun <p-aws@sbcglobal.net>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 3:58 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Please support AB 2494 so that Demonstration State Forests, including Jackson, may be managed for the future and the present and not destroyed or randomly harvested inappropriately. Conservation goals and indigenous co-management are our future, let us start now.

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Yours in least waste,

PatriciaAnne WinterSun

Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest.

– Maya Angelou



Outlook

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Public Comment\_Agenda item I.1. Letter of Support for CA Assembly Bill 2494

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From Idiane <Idiane@sonic.net>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 2:28 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

To the Board,

I am writing to ask for the Board to send a letter of support for Assembly Bill 2494 (agenda item I.1).

The bill will serve as a salient update and clear pathway for of all Demonstration State Forests by focusing on management oriented around goals related to climate and related, wildfire resiliency, as well as biodiversity conservation, and the role of timber harvest (e.g. thinning to reduce stand density and thus wildfire vulnerability) and associated research to foster these goals.

Meeting these goals will make a difference for all (including employment opportunities for foresters, researchers and restorationists) versus just profit-oriented logging in state forests.

I hope this comment translates and you will support of AB 2494.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hoover, Blue Lake CA



Outlook

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**Public Comment on AB 2494**

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From Lee Dedini <dedinilee@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 1:38 PM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

The bill would transition Demonstration State Forests from demonstrating commercial industrial logging to achieving conservation goals under 30x30 with tribal co-management while supporting rural economic development through forest restoration and increased ecotourism. The management of state forests is critical to demonstrating and researching the latest silvicultural techniques to all forest landowners and for informing forest management policy. Years of community and grassroots support for a mandate change has resulted in the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors sending in a letter of support of AB 2494, so please join Mendocino County to support healthy forests and tribal sovereignty in forest management.

Thank you,  
Lee Dedini  
Bayside, Ca.

**AB 2494**

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**From** Cisco Lassiter <ciscolassiter@mac.com>  
**Date** Mon 4/27/2026 12:14 PM  
**To** COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>  
**Cc** josefina@wildcalifornia.org <josefina@wildcalifornia.org>

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear supervisors,

I am writing to urge you to send a letter of support for assembly bill 2494. I have lived in Mendocino and Humboldt counties for just shy of 50 years. The state demonstration forests are an invaluable resource, but their intrinsic value is immeasurable.

We are in desperate need of appropriate management, which, to date, has been sorely lacking. It is my firm belief that assembly bill 2494 covers most, if not all, of our ecological concerns as well as providing for reasonable levels of employment and timber production.

But again, most important in my opinion is the intrinsic value of wild and semi wild lands. Without them, our humanity is greatly diminished. If we do not preserve/manage these rapid shrinking pockets of forest habitat, we will lose our very identities, our sense of who we are and where we came from.

Sincerely  
Cisco Lassiter

Cisco Lassiter Investigations



Outlook

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## Agenda Item I.1 Please Support AB 2494

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**From** James McCubbrey <jmccubbrey@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 4/27/2026 11:24 AM

**To** COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to ask that the Board support AB 2494. This is a great opportunity to take the long overdue steps to develop more sustainable forest management for California.

Humboldt County will benefit from funding for sound forest management practices provided by this bill. We all know that commercially-driven forest management has depleted our resources in many ways. Integrating conservation, restoration and fire prevention into timber harvest practices is a win for everybody.

Please do what you can to show that Humboldt County stands behind AB 2494. -

Jay

--

James McCubbrey, PhD.

Arcata, CA 95521

**Public Comment on AB 2494**

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From rmzh@suddenlink.net <rmzh@suddenlink.net>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 11:20 AM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that centers tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access as opposed to profit-driven logging in state forests. This bill provides a clear pathway to providing a much needed update to the framework of management for all Demonstration State Forests. AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE's Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and allow lands to count towards California's 30x30 conservation goals. Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests - but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

This is a bill with great support from many of us living on the North Coast. I hope you can join us in support of this bill by submitting your letter of support.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.



Outlook

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## support for AB 2494

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From Len Wolff <riverwolf1951@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/27/2026 10:50 AM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that centers tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access as opposed to profit-driven logging in state forests. This bill provides a clear pathway to providing a much needed update to the framework of management for all Demonstration State Forests. AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE's Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and allow lands to count towards California's 30x30 conservation goals. Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests - but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

This is a bill with great support from many of us living on the North Coast. I hope you can join us in support of this bill by submitting your letter of support.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.

Len Wolff

Arcata, Ca. 95521



Outlook

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**Public comment on AB 2494**

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**From** Dj Bj <djbjemail@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 4/27/2026 10:42 AM

**To** COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

**Caution:** This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

**Subject:** Public Comment on AB 2494

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that centers tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access as opposed to profit-driven logging in state forests. This bill provides a clear pathway to providing a much needed update to the framework of management for all Demonstration State Forests. AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE's Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and allow lands to count towards California's 30x30 conservation goals. Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests - but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

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Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.

Becky Gibson