



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2494 (State Demonstration Forests) - As amended March 25

Dear Chair Wicks and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the County of Humboldt, I write to express our support for AB 2494.

Healthy forests and rivers are fundamentally connected. Decisions about how forests are managed have direct impacts on water temperature, sediment levels, and streamflow which are conditions that California's native salmon and steelhead rely on to survive. AB 2494 updates the management of state demonstration forests by emphasizing ecological restoration, biodiversity, and climate resilience, all of which are essential for sustaining healthy watersheds.

The bill enables demonstration forests to fulfill their intended role as living laboratories for research, restoration, and sustainable land management. Efforts to improve forest structure, lower wildfire risk, and safeguard headwater systems will provide clear benefits to cold-water fisheries as well as downstream communities.

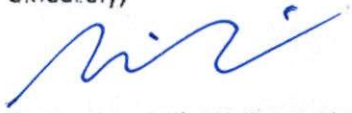
California's demonstration forests contain headwaters and tributaries that are vital to some of the state's most important salmon and steelhead populations. For instance, the South Fork Noyo River within Jackson Demonstration State Forest supports one of the strongest remaining runs of endangered Central California Coast coho salmon. Similarly, tributaries of Soquel Creek within Soquel Demonstration State Forest offer critical habitat for both steelhead and coho along the Central Coast.

AB 2494 also supports California's broader conservation goals, including the 30x30 initiative and Executive Order N-82-20, by positioning these lands as key contributors to long-term ecosystem protection. The bill's emphasis on Tribal co-governance and the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge will further strengthen forest and watershed management outcomes.

Humboldt County supports the overarching principles of AB 2494, and requests that modifications to the language focus on supporting and not interfering with important or ongoing forestry research. Additionally, we attach comments from our County Forester with recommended amendments, which are supported by our board.

For these reasons, we ask that you support AB2494.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Supervisor Mike Wilson, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors