



CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION

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April 1, 2004

The Honorable Dede Alpert  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95418

***Reference: SB 1648 (Chesbro)***  
***CLFA Position: Oppose***

Dear Senator Alpert,

The California Licensed Foresters Association opposes SB 1648, which will cost California taxpayers and rural communities tens of millions of dollars. This legislation will also undermine current comprehensive planning efforts being conducted by the State Board of Forestry, which is in the midst of preparing a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) in Mendocino County. By changing the purpose of the state demonstration forests as well as specifically constraining management flexibility at JDSF, SB 1648 will require the Board to start the lengthy environmental planning process all over again, at great cost to both the state and affected local communities.

This legislation will further accelerate timber imports into California from other states and foreign countries. The trend of exporting solid, good paying forestry jobs outside our borders has led to a situation where we now import 80% of the lumber we use in the Golden State. That's costing rural infrastructure, jobs and tax receipts.

With regard to JDSF, there are those who evidently believe that sustainable forest management is not important, or perhaps not even attainable. It is argued that timber harvest levels at JDSF need to be greatly reduced in order to protect the environment. This is not supported by the science or the record of stewardship that has existed on JDSF for decades. JDSF is capable, on a sustainable basis, of contributing \$10-15 million dollars annually to state funds. This occurs while overall timber inventories continue to rise and extensive protections are in place for fish and wildlife.

Harvest-related activity at JDSF also provides employment for hundreds and valuable building products for the state's economy. This is sustainable forestry in action.

JDSF is not a park. It was created to support, study and demonstrate sustainable forest management and it has done an outstanding job over the years. Information learned at JDSF is utilized on private ownerships throughout the redwood region to improve forest practices and to enhance environmental quality.

California foresters earnestly hope that this legislation either fails or is sufficiently amended to properly recognize the tremendous (and perpetual) economic, social and ecological benefits that our state demonstration forests – including JDSF – have to offer both present and future Californians.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

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Cc: The Honorable Jim Battin, Vice Chair.  
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee.  
The Honorable Wes Chesbro.  
Senate Appropriations Committee Staff.  
CLFA Board of Directors.

*The California Licensed Foresters Association, with approximately 750 members, represents the common interests of California Registered Professional Foresters. The Association provides opportunities for continuing education and public outreach to its membership, which includes diverse professionals affiliated with government agencies, private timber companies, consultants and the academic community. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, CLFA was established in 1980 after the passage of the landmark California Professional Foresters Law.*