



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

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March 27, 2018

The Honorable Jim Patterson
State Capitol Room 3132
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB1954 (Patterson)

Timber harvest plans: exemption: reducing flammable materials (as introduced January 29, 2018)

Dear Assembly Member Patterson:

The California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) is writing in support of AB1954 (Patterson). The CLFA is grateful for your efforts to address California's hazardous wildland fuel loading problem. We very much appreciate your taking the time to consider our comments and take action by introducing meaningful legislation that is designed to help land managers and foresters care for California's timberlands. AB1954 is a great step in the right direction; by extending the operable period of the 300-foot defensible space exemption, we can keep a valuable tool in the forester's belt that can help save homes and lives. Since the inception of the 300-foot defensible space exemption, it has been used 39 times, 30 of which were conducted in 2017 alone. If this trend continues with foresters and landowners becoming more familiar with the program, we can expect to see this exemption being used more frequently, which will result in safer working conditions for firefighters working in the wildland-urban interface.

The mega fires that we have seen with increasing frequency and severity in California are encroaching more densely populated urban areas in ways that they had not in the past. The Valley fire that destroyed much of Middletown in 2015, and the fires that ravaged Northern and Southern California in 2017 are just a few examples of this devastating trend. This problem can be greatly reduced through management; allowing trees that are removed for defensible space purposes to be sold for timber will help pay for those management activities. AB1954 is smart legislation that continues a program that reduces hazardous fuels without the need for grants or bonds that further burden California's tax payers. It is for these reasons that the California Licensed Foresters Association SUPPORT AB-1954.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K O'Leary".

Thank you for your consideration,
Kieran O'Leary
President
California Licensed Foresters Association

CLFA was formed by Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) in 1980. The Association represents Industrial, Consulting, Academic or Public foresters working together for the common cause of enhancing the role of the Professional Forester in California.