



CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION

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May 24, 2018

Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry,  
4th Assembly District  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0004

RE: AB-2208 SUPPORT

California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) is again writing in support of AB-2208 (Aguiar-Curry). AB-2208 is a step in the right direction to help forest managers reduce the mega wildfires that have been plaguing our wild lands for decades. Forest biomass can be burned with catastrophic wildfires as is presently happening; or that same biomass can be burned in the emission controlled environment of a furnace tied to a bioenergy power plant.

Removal of fuel from the landscape for bioenergy would significantly reduce the cost of fighting wildland fires. Health care costs would also be reduced due to reduced levels of toxins and particulate matter in the atmosphere from smoke of wildfires and open agricultural burning. Greenhouse gas emissions would also be curtailed which could have a positive impact to anticipated future climate change and those unknown costs.

A popular alternative to fuel removal, at this time, is prescribed burning. These burns have definite benefits but will release smoke. Prescribed burns can and do escape causing uncontrolled wildfires. Burn projects are very expensive to conduct safely, requiring burn experts and usually require public fire fighters to protect against unintended spread. Fuel removal for bioenergy is less risky, reduces smoke, and (although it is expensive) costs are somewhat offset by power generation. Investment in bioenergy should accelerate the development of technology and infrastructure that may allow those energy plants to become profitable.

Energy production facilities create jobs and a source of tax revenue. The plants are located in rural areas to be close to the fuel source. Rural communities are particularly sensitive to jobs and tax revenue to support local business and government.

Currently, bioenergy power plants produce less than 5% of the renewable energy for California. Bioenergy energy should have, and deserves, a bigger piece of the renewable energy pie – and we should set an achievable target like 25% or 4,000 megawatts of power production for the state. Doing this will help meet Governor Brown's state mandate of generating half of the electric power from renewable sources by the year 2030. Many of these existing power plants are located in the Central Valley. Future constructed power plants can be small to mid-size, 10 to 40 megawatts, and should be located in or near the forest. This will keep transportation cost down as well as minimize unnecessary emissions from hauling bioenergy fuel from the forest to the Central Valley. AB-2208, as currently written, has set a de minimus quantity of nonrenewable fuels for each renewable energy technology at a level of no more than 2 percent of the total quantity of fuel used by the technology to generate electricity. Locating these bioenergy power plants close to the fuel source (forest) will assist in achieve that 2 percent threshold.

The California Public Utilities Commission needs to be part of this discussion. Through legislation, the power transmission companies need to construct numerous electric sub stations in the forest that bioenergy power plants can tap into. There are thousands of miles of high voltage transmission lines that span through California forestlands. This goal is achievable.



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For the reasons stated above California Licensed Foresters Association SUPPORTs AB-2208.

Sincerely

Thank you for your consideration,  
Harlan Tranmer  
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.

