



State of California

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March 15, 2018

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1260**

Dear Senator Jackson:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 1260, the measure you authored that would implement recommendations from the Commission's recent forest management report by expanding opportunities to conduct prescribed burns, including requiring CAL FIRE to consider assigning personnel to assist with annual prescribed burning operations, increasing opportunities for fire personnel to access prescribed burn curricula, augmenting opportunities to educate the public on prescribed burns and enhancing air quality and smoke monitoring.

In its 2018 report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, the Commission stated that the benefits of prescribed fire are too important to ignore, but significant challenges must be overcome to fully utilize it. During its study, the Commission heard from numerous experts about the important role of prescribed burning in restoring forest resiliency. Given the benefits provided by healthy forests to air and water quality, carbon sequestration, rural economic development and catastrophic wildfire prevention, the Commission concluded it is incumbent on the State of California to lead a policy shift from fire suppression to using fire as a tool for forest management. Among its recommendations, the Commission calls upon the state to do what is necessary to increase the use of prescribed fire, including creating dedicated prescribed fire crews, designing a long-term forest health campaign to educate the public on the benefits of prescribed burning and improving air quality monitoring.

Because SB 1260 implements these recommendations, the Little Hoover Commission supports this measure to improve forest resiliency. As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to Legislators urging aye votes. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Terri Hardy  
Executive Director (A)

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission; Members, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water; Bill Craven, Chief Consultant, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water