



**State of California**

925 L Street, Suite 805  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
PH: 916-445-2125

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Pedro Nava  
Chairman

Sean Varner  
Vice Chairman

Dion Aroner

David Beier

Iveta Brigis

Cynthia Buiza

Bill Emmerson

Chad Mayes  
Assemblymember

Jim Nielsen  
Senator

Bill Quirk  
Assemblymember

Richard Roth  
Senator

Cathy Schwamberger

Janna Sidley

**RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 616 (Patterson)**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 616 (Patterson) which would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to prepare a report beginning January 2021 and annually until 2024, in collaboration with the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency, on the progress made toward implementing the California Forest Carbon Plan.

In its 2018 report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, the Commission found that the draft Forest Carbon Plan lacks a built-in mechanism to ensure accountability. "Most of the plan's goals have target dates of 2030," the Commission observed, "but significant preliminary work, such as developing regional carbon plans, remains to be done to ensure the state stays on track to meet its goals." The Commission noted that an accountability mechanism, such as regular status updates, would allow policymakers and stakeholders additional opportunities to engage and course correct, if necessary.

To ensure progress toward the plan's goals, the Commission called for the California Natural Resources Agency, its relevant departments, and the California Environmental Protection Agency to regularly report to the Legislature and post online progress on the metrics listed in the Forest Carbon Plan, as well as the steps it is taking to begin implementing the plan. AB 616 would carry out this recommendation.

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 616, and encourages an AYE vote. If I or my staff can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava  
Chairman

C: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission