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Milton Marks Commission on California State Government
Organization and Economy

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March 9, 2021

The Honorable Jim Frazier
Chair, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1431

Dear Assemblymember Frazier,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1431 which would build upon the objectives established in California's Forest Carbon Plan by establishing state goals for fuel treatment and vegetation management. The bill would also require the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to submit a report to the Legislature on the positions and resources needed to achieve those goals by January 2023; and annually thereafter, on the progress made toward implementing those goals.

In its 2018 report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, the Commission found that the Forest Carbon Plan lacks a built-in mechanism to ensure accountability. Among its recommendations, 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. Furthermore, the Commission urged the state to outline a plan to staff up and fund the additional positions needed to meet the plan's goals of treating 500,000 acres of nonfederal land per year with similar treatment goals on federal land.

AB 1431 would carry out these recommendations and would increase the pace and scale of California's forest restoration efforts. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission