



State of California

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**Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy**

website: www.lhc.ca.gov

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Mike McGuire
1021 O Street, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 9581

The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg
1021 O Street, Suite 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Susan Rubio
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bill Dodd
1021 O Street, Suite 6620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dave Min
1021 O Street, Suite 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Suite 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto
1021 O Street, Suite 4340
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1062

Dear Senators McGuire, Hertzberg, Rubio, Dodd, Limón, Min, and Assemblymembers Rivas and Seyarto,

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 1062, the measure you authored that would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to hire additional firefighters to fully staff frontline fire engines as well as add more fuel crews to provide on-the-ground support during fire season, proactively move on defensible space and fire prevention projects, and protect vulnerable communities. The bill would also require CalFire to provide a long-term staffing plan to the Legislature by 2024.

In its 2018 report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, the Commission found that prioritizing forest management for the long run will require more funding and staff. To adequately assist CalFire in its efforts to create more resilient forests, the Commission urged the state to outline a plan to staff up and fund the additional positions needed to meet the Forest Carbon Plan's goals of treating 500,000 acres of nonfederal land per year with similar treatment goals on federal land.

SB 1062 would carry out this recommendation. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. 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

Pedro Nava, Chairman

Phillip Chen, Assemblymember

Jim Nielsen, Senator

Sean Varner, Vice Chairman

Bill Emmerson

Cathy Schwamberger

Dion Aroner

Gil Garcetti

Janna Sidley

David Beier

Tasha Boerner Horvath, Assemblymember

Ethan Rarick, Executive Director

Cynthia Buiza

Dave Min, Senator