



Ebbetts Pass Forest  
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January 5, 2010

Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Natural Resources Committee  
1020 N St., Suite 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1504—SUPPORT

Dear Assemblywoman Skinner:

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch (EPFW) is pleased to support AB1504. EPFW is a community-based conservation group headquartered in Calaveras County which, since 2000, has been researching, data-gathering, educating the public, and advocating for maintenance and restoration of watersheds and quality of life in the Sierra Nevada. A major focus of our work is on forests and management of California's private forestlands. In the past three years, much effort has been expended in the realm of climate as related to the forest sector.

AB 1504 requires the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), in consultation with the State Air Resources Board (ARB), to assess the capacity of its forest and rangeland regulations and nonregulatory forestry programs to meet or exceed the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals by 2020, consistent with the Scoping Plan adopted by ARB pursuant to AB 32.

Forests in California are essential to our climate change efforts but also are essential to our water supplies, wildlife, tourism and other essential natural values. We believe that the independent academic peer review required in this bill is critical to ensure that the work has unbiased scientific validity and reliability. The stakes are high in getting this right and there already is significant political pressure on this effort. The world will be

watching California's efforts in this area and we need to ensure that the results can not be discredited.

Estimating carbon emissions and sequestration from the forest sector is a technical, dynamic and complex endeavor. For example, emissions from or sequestration by all carbon pools must be accounted for in order to reliably estimate the total "flow" of carbon coming into or leaving the forest ecosystem. While CDF has already committed to completing this assessment as a member of the Interagency Forestry Working Group, AB 1504 requires CDF to do so by March 1, 2012.

CDF's existing mandate is to ensure that our state's forests are managed in a prudent and responsible way that protects public trust values such as watersheds, wildlife, fisheries, water quality, and recreation. A recent letter from the California Attorney General has re-emphasized the need to protect these resources. Since the passage of AB 32, CDF must add to its management regime the consideration of carbon emissions from the forest sector. While the Scoping Plan estimates that the sector is currently a net sequester of carbon emissions, factors such as more frequent and intense forest fires, increasing pests and infestations, and changes in forest productivity, all due to climate change, will likely chip away at this sequestration rate. Therefore, our efforts are even more critical and will have an impact on whether or not our forests can adapt to these changes.

Accordingly, given the role forests can play in combating or contributing to climate change, it is critical that the Legislature and the public be reliably informed about the role our existing regulatory regime is playing in meeting the state's GHG reduction goals and whether any changes are necessary to ensure that our state's forests can continue to not only meet climate goals but provide ecosystem values such as water and wildlife and timber products for the long-term.

Thank you for authoring AB 1504 which will help insure that California's forests and climates are protected for the future.

Sincerely,  
Susan A. Robinson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch

cc: John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Caucus (FAX 916-319-3902)