

September 1, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to implore you to veto SB 1648. The legislation as sent to you changes the land use of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Fort Bragg to the equivalent of a State Park. Existing law from the 1940's purchase of the property has maintained a multiple use resource for the State that has provided both an income source, as well as forest research and demonstration opportunities. The proposed statutes if signed will summarily discard a sustainable forest, and place an additional tax burden on the State's taxpayers.

The legislation is sponsored by an individual who has lots of time on his hands, and who wants to see commercial harvesting ended in Mendocino County at any cost. He has developed a small but influential constituency that has influenced the legislature into making a decision that ignores the breadth of values of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. It would be a crime to let a few self-centered individuals cost the majority of the State's citizens a valuable multiple use resource.

The bill was passed in the Assembly by only 39-33, and in the Senate by a vote of 22-13; a less than overwhelming endorsement of the concepts in this piece of legislation.

The Jackson Demonstration State Forest has been a State Forest since 1947, and has contributed some \$200 million in revenue to the State of California, along with the fact that it not only pays taxes like a private landowner, but also the harvest results in significant timber taxes being generated, which benefits Mendocino County and the local communities. Despite the over 1 billion board feet being harvested in the past 5 decades, the timber inventory has doubled to almost 2 billion board feet, and the annual growth has increased to 65 million board beet per year, with the annual harvest being about 32 million board feet. This forest is one of the most productive in California, and provides significant recreational opportunities. With the current and proposed forest management plan, the Forest is also a major contributor to the pool of knowledge for watershed and other research activities.

Unfortunately due to technical errors in updating the management plan, the courts mandated a withdrawal of the management plan completed in 2002. Harvesting has stopped for the past 2-3 years while the plan is being modified to meet the mandates of the judicial system. This has resulted in the sawmill in Fort Bragg closing due a lack of raw material, and the loss of some 150 permanent well paying positions. It has also resulted in staff being cut due to the lack of revenue, loss of resources to the

**urban forestry community, loss of funds to promote management and reforestation of the small forest landowners, and an unnecessary increase in production in other states and countries to satisfy the needs of California, and in most cases from locations with much less stringent forest practice rules and regulations.**

**This legislation would reduce the harvest to less than 15 million board feet per year, establish yet another citizen's advisory committee, arbitrarily ban harvesting of all trees in existence since 1850, increase harvest plan preparation and harvesting costs and greatly reduce the financial resources needed to manage California's forests.**

**We already import over 70% of the lumber and wood products used in California, while the annual harvest on all lands doesn't even match the annual mortality. You have seen for yourself the devastation in Southern California caused by lack of management for many years and the drought. If the Sierra Club and others had been successful in their efforts to shut the sawmill in Terra Bella, there would be absolutely no market for the 3.5 billion board feet of standing dead timber down there.**

**Governor Schwarzenegger, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a completely opposite approach to this piece of proposed statute. It is my belief that the State of California should expand the State Forest System, as has been done in almost all of the other Western states with sizeable forested areas. Forester's would have the opportunity to manage the land for a full range of natural resource values, rather than what often occurs under other private or public ownership. I do have some ideas how this can be self funding, and yet increase production of all forest resources.**

**Do not tie our hands! Let the professionally trained foresters and resource specialists manage the forest; not the Sierra Club and those who want ALL harvesting in California halted!**

**Please, please VETO SB 1648!**

**Sincerely,**

**Brian R. Barrette. CDF retired, RPF, member of SAF, California Forest Pest Council, the Sacramento Tree Foundation, Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society.**

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