

August 31, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to ask you to veto SB1648. This legislation changes the foundation of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County. The State had a far reaching vision back in the 1940's when it established the State Forest to demonstrate and investigate forest management techniques. There is no real reason to change that mission, other than a narrow constituency that does not represent the values of California wants to stop or significantly curtail logging simply because they don't like logging.

Just tonight I saw you on television promoting California Grown. Shouldn't that apply to renewable resources like forest products too? California forests are some of the most productive in the world, but legislation like SB1648 suggests that it's okay to continue to import 70% or more of the forest products this state uses. It also suggests that California isn't willing to invest in research and management activities that enlighten our understanding about how to promote sustainable forest practices.

The legislature has put many bills before you this past month that do not represent your Administration's values. This is one of those. Once again it is chasing industry out of the state by reducing the supply needed to maintain the small mill capacity left. It creates a burden to California tax payers by eliminating the profits from timber sale receipts from this state forest that would support the California Department of Fire and Forestry, which provide key programs to support forest landowners.

This legislation is a backward step. Please let the Legislature know that you represent higher standards and a larger constituency than the minority that advocated this bill.

Sincerely,

Julie Lydick
Member, Society of American Foresters - 25 years