

August 29, 2022

The Honorable Cristina Garcia
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1757 as amended August 28, 2022 – Support

Dear Assembly Members Rivas and Garcia,

The undersigned organizations write in support of AB 1757 which will help ensure that California's natural and working lands are an effective part of the State's portfolio of climate actions.

California is defined by our natural and working landscapes such as our farms and ranches, urban and rural forests, mountain meadows, and wetlands. These areas comprise over 90% of the state, and supply the fundamental building blocks all Californians rely on including clean water, food, wood, clean air, recreation, and spiritual renewal. The management of these lands can have an enormous impact on climate mitigation – reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon in plants and soils – as well as restoring health and resilience to our lands to be better prepared for the extreme weather that climate change will inflict on California.

AB 1757 advances California's climate efforts on our natural and working lands by:

- Requiring the relevant state agencies to establish a range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for reducing emissions, for California's natural and working lands. These targets for 2030, 2038, and 2045 would be incorporated into the Scoping Plan Update and other relevant policies, and be distinct from offsets or any other compliance requirement.
- Establishing an Expert Advisory Committee to assist the Natural Resources Agency and CARB with the modeling of targets and establishing standardized accounting of GHG reductions, and make recommendations on removal of barriers to accelerate actions on these nature-based solutions.
- Require the Climate Smart Land Strategy to be updated to achieve the targets and report on progress, effectiveness, benefits, and other specified issues.
- Require the Natural Resources Agency to publish data on its website every two years on progress made towards achieving the targets, including state expenditures made to implement targets.

Nature-based solutions are an essential part of our climate strategy, both to help achieve our carbon neutrality goals, and to help prepare our lands and communities for the inevitable challenging climate conditions ahead. AB 1757 will help keep California on track, and ensure accountability to the Legislature and the public. We strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Mason
Pacific Forest Trust

Pamela Flick
Defenders of Wildlife

Ellie Cohen
The Climate Center

Jeanne Merrill
California Climate and Agriculture Network

Don Butz
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Andrea Williams
California Native Plant Society

Eric Holst
Environmental Defense Fund

Torri Estrada
Carbon Cycle Institute

Manny Gonez
TreePeople

Nick Lapis
Californians Against Waste

Janet Cox
350 Silicon Valley

Rachel Payne
The Tree Pledge

Bridget Fithian
California Council of Land Trusts

Nancy Hughes
California Urban Forests Council

Claire Robinson
Amigos de los Rios

Stuart Wood, PhD
Sustainable Claremont

Mona Cummings
San Joaquin Urban Forest Council

Mark Kenyon
North East Trees

Eminy Darakjy
Los Angeles/Orange County
Regional Urban Forest Council

Elizabeth Lanham
Bay Area Urban Forest
Ecosystem Council

Mike Palat
San Diego Regional
Urban Forest Council

Jessica Sanders
Sacramento Tree Foundation

Nancy Sappinton
Inland Urban Forest Council

Jeanne McConnell
Angelenos for Trees

Anne Fenkner
Sacramento Urban Forest Council

Mario Becerra
A Cleaner Greener East LA

Kenneth Knight
Your Children's Trees

Sharyn Roman
Los Angeles Beautification Team

David Wilkinson
Woodland Tree Foundation

Tom Hamilton
Lumber Cycle

Kevin Gaston
TreePeople Land Trust

Jonathan Pilch
Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Gavin Raders
Planting Justice

Nathan Stout
St. Vincent’s Hill
Neighborhood Coalition

David Runsten
Community Alliance
with Family Farmers

Sara Davis
Central Coast Urban
Forests Council

Mona Cummings
Tree Fresno

AndyFisher
Ecological Farming Association

Markos Major
Climate Action Now!

Jo Ann Baumgartner
Wild Farm Alliance

Dave Henson
Occidental Arts & Ecology Center

Reggie Knox
Farmlink

David R White PhD
Center for Regenerative Agriculture

Bryan Tassey
Tree Partners Foundation

Claire Schlotterbeck
Hills for Everyone

Rose Epperson, CAE
West Coast Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture

Jackie Heyneman
Save Our Forest/
Fallbrook Land Conservancy

Shelley Billik
Community Forest Advisory Committee

Erin Donley Marineau, Ph.D.
Tree Davis

Rosa RiVera Furumoto
Parent Pioneers

Manuel Alonso
Earth Team

Katie Palatinus
Roseville Urban Forest Foundation

Grey Kolevzon
Growing Together

Kelaine Ravdin
Urban Ecos

Anne Fenkner
Davey Resource Group

FLOOR ALERT

VOTE AYE on AB 1757

AB 1757 (C. Garcia and R. Rivas) advances California's climate efforts by:

- Requiring relevant state agencies to establish targets for natural carbon sequestration and reducing emissions for California's natural and working lands for 2030, 2038, and 2045.
- Establishing an Expert Advisory Committee to assist the Natural Resources Agency and CARB with the modeling of targets, standardized accounting of GHG reductions, and make recommendations to accelerate action on these nature-based solutions.
- Requiring the Climate Smart Land Strategy to be updated to achieve the targets and report on progress, effectiveness, benefits, and other specified issues.
- Requiring the Natural Resources Agency to publish data on its website every two years on progress made towards achieving the targets.

AB 1757 will help ensure that California's natural and working lands are an effective part of the State's portfolio of climate actions.

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