



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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March 10, 2026

Assemblymember Chris Rogers
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Assembly Bill 2494 (Rogers) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Chris Rogers:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for Assembly Bill 2494.

The management principles for the demonstration state forest system have not been modified in decades and current regulations do not reflect the state's climate resiliency goals. There are 14 demonstration forests managed by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The management principles for the demonstration state forest system have not been modified in decades and current regulations do not reflect the state's climate resiliency goals.

The updated management principles in this bill align with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20 and help meet California's 30x30 initiative by encouraging ecological restoration and building resilience to climate change and wildfires within demonstration state forests. This bill ensures that the protection of ecological conditions within demonstration state forest lands are prioritized by declaring that these lands be used primarily for research, recreation, and demonstration purposes. The updates under this bill are critical to support rural economies in transitioning away from dwindling extractive economies and instead enhancing ecotourism in these communities.

AB 2494 moves the state away from relying solely on timber harvesting to manage the demonstration state forest system. Under AB 2494, the sale of timber and other forest products will still be allowed, but as a byproduct of ecological restoration or research projects. This bill will also allow funds from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund to be used to maintain demonstration state forests.

"I commend Assemblymember Rogers leadership in aligning California's management of its demonstration forests with the priorities shared by the state and Mendocino County," said Supervisor Ted Williams, Fifth District Supervisor for Mendocino County. "Like many rural communities, Mendocino County is struggling. As we transition away from an economy that relies primarily on extractive industries, which no longer provide sustainable support for our residents, we must expand opportunities for revenue and job creation. By directing the state to manage demonstration forests for public access, tribal co-management, climate resilience, and biodiversity, we can attract additional user

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groups such as mountain bikers, mushroom foragers, hikers, birdwatchers, and others to help steward our public lands and support resilient rural economies.”

For the above reasons, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors support AB 2494.

Sincerely,

Bernie Norvell, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the California State Senate
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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