



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5520
(530) 626-4756 FAX
eldcag@co.el-dorado.ca.us

Greg Boeger, Chair – Agricultural Processing Industry
Lloyd Walker, Vice -Chair – Other Agricultural Interest
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
Bill Draper - Forestry Related Industries
John Smith - Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Ron Mansfield – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Gary Ward - Livestock Industry

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Kevin de Leon
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capital, Room #2114
Sacramento, CA 94249-0045

SUBJECT: Support for Assembly Bill 1066 (Mendoza)

Dear Chair de Leon:

On Wednesday, May 13, 2009, the County of El Dorado Agricultural Commission voted unanimously to support Assembly Bill 1066 (Mendoza) and encourages your committee to approve the measure.

As you may be aware, California has lost over 80 sawmills since 1989 which has been especially injurious to rural, resource based economies. During Commission discussions regarding the current economic downturn and Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) announcement to close three additional mills, including one located in Camino, the Commission believes strongly that the California legislature must lead the way to better economic times. It the Commission's collective opinion that the passage of this straightforward bill is essential to start California on the road to economic recovery. By extending the effective period of a mandated Timber Harvest Plan from 3 years to 5 years, operating forest products businesses in California can more efficiently compete in a global market while continuing to protect California's unique environment.

Additionally, it is also our opinion that as we lose the ability to process timber locally, the danger of catastrophic wildfires increases exponentially. California must retain this processing infrastructure capability to be able to continue to manage our important resources while maintaining public safety.

We ask that your committee approve this simple and necessary bill.

Sincerely,

Greg Boeger, Chair
EDC Agricultural Commission

cc: The Honorable Tony Mendoza
Assembly Appropriations Committee
Governor's Office Legislative Unit
David Titus, CDF