

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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September 27, 2016

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL – H.R. 5860 (McClintock)

Dear Congressman McClintock,

On behalf of the County of El Dorado, I am pleased to report that our Board of Supervisors is in support of H.R. 5860, the Emergency Forest Restoration Act. If enacted, this legislation will allow the Department of Agriculture (USDA), regarding National Forest System lands, or the Department of the Interior, regarding public lands, to develop and carry out a forest management activity, on lands of the department concerned, in a state when the activity's primary purpose is to address an insect or disease infestation that has been declared an emergency by the state governor.

The start of the bill's provisions is a declaration of emergency by the governor of any state due to tree disease or insect infestation. The bill creates a categorical exclusion to remove dead trees on federal land and authorizes up to \$300 million per year for the activity. The bill requires the relevant agency to harvest enough timber on any lands under their jurisdiction to pay back to the Treasury, within five years, any funds spent on the dead tree removal and creates a categorical exclusion for this harvest.

This piece of legislation would be one step to bring healthy forest management back to the federally managed lands. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is actively working to support policies and practices that encourage healthy forest management practices. For example, the Board supports the Eldorado National Forest on the South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy Project, and supports CAL Fire's "Fire Adapted 50 Project." Additionally, on June 23, 2015, our Board of Supervisors approved a formal position in support of H.R. 2647, the "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015."

The County of El Dorado would like to thank you for sponsoring this much-needed legislation. Our national forests are in a critical state of danger, and this legislation will go a long way toward better stewardship of our land.

For these reasons, the County of El Dorado supports H.R. 5860.

Sincerely,

Ron Mikulaco
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado