



May 16, 2017

The Honorable Kevin De León
 Senate President pro Tempore
 California State Senate
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 5 (De León) – The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 -- SUPPORT

Dear Senator De León:

On behalf of California's urban forestry organizations charged with greening our Golden State through community trees, we are pleased to support your recently amended Senate Bill 5 -- The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018.

As you may know, the Legislature has not passed a resources bond with significant funding for parks and urban green space in 15 years. SB 5 represents a tremendous opportunity to invest in social equity and help restore California's natural legacy.

One key funding element that has been added to SB 317 provides \$50 million to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, with not less than 30% of these funds available for urban forestry. Additionally, these funds would complement existing urban forestry expenditures by supporting areas that have not recently had access to resources within the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

This program has been the State's primary mechanism for advancing tree-based urban green infrastructure for over 15 years. The technical expertise of CAL FIRE's six regional foresters coupled with their successful existing program has been a critical component in supporting hundreds of urban forestry projects that speak directly to improving public health, expanding recreational resources, reducing stormwater runoff, and mitigating climate change impacts in densely populated and underserved areas of the state.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that at least 40 million tree-planting sites are immediately available in California, which would add 20% more trees to our existing urban forests if all trees were planted. SB 5 will play an essential role in meeting that goal (which is currently included in the Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan) by providing necessary fiscal resources that would be leveraged by additional private and public funds, and a community volunteer base that is one of the best in the nation.

For these reasons, we support SB 317 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue..

Sincerely,

Joe St. John
Koreatown Youth and
Community Center

Rose Epperson
Western Chapter, International
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Nancy Hughes
California Urban
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Chuck Mills
California ReLeaf

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Mark Kenyon
North East Trees

Dan Smuts
The Wilderness Society

Isabel Wade
Just One tree

Gail Church
Tree Musketeers

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Rosa Rivera Furumoto
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Richmond Trees

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From Lot to Spot

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Rhonda Berry
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Kemba Shakur
Urban ReLeaf

Jeremy Terhune
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Sharyn Romano
Los Angeles Beautification Team

Richard Dale
Sonoma Ecology Center

Ken Knight
Your Children's Trees

Constance Gannon, PhD
Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust

Bryan Tassef
Tree Partners Foundation

Brian Kempf
Urban Tree Foundation

Larry Test
Stockton Tree Foundation

Steven Goetz
Benicia Tree Foundation

Claire Robinson
Amigos de los Rios

Angee Beckett
West Hollywood Tree
Preservation Society

Jackie Heyneman
Save our Forest/
Fallbrook Land Conservancy

Nathan Stout
Solano Advocates
Green Environments