



® May 8, 2017

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The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1608 (Kalra) – Vibrant Landscapes for Climate, People, and Multiple Benefits
As Amended May 1, 2017 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing on May 10, 2017 – Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of AB 1608 (Kalra), a measure that would create the Vibrant Landscapes Program to support the voluntary development of landscape plans to integrate natural and working lands with land use and climate action plans.

AB 1608 authorizes the Department of Conservation to develop the Vibrant Landscapes Program. This program would assist local governments with the development and implementation of county and regional plans that integrate the conservation and management of natural and working lands. The goal of this program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve other environmental benefits. AB 1608 also establishes a fund in the state treasury and authorizes the Department of Conservation to expend money in that fund in order to implement the program, upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Counties are leaders in taking action to combat climate change. Counties recognize that climate change will have a harmful effect on our environment, public health, and economy, and counties recognize the need for action on climate change with a flexible approach to account for California's large number of diverse communities. However, it is important to note that in order for efforts like the Vibrant Landscapes Program to be successful and achieve the desired outcomes, adequate and sustainable funding is needed.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1608. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact me at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cara Martinson', written in a cursive style.

Cara Martinson
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Ash Kalra
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Consultant