



March 20, 2019

1100 K Street  
Suite 101  
Sacramento  
California  
95814

Telephone  
916.327.7500

Facsimile  
916.441.5507

The Honorable Adam Gray  
California State Assembly  
Chair, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 360A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1375 (Bigelow) – Disaster relief: dead and dying tree removal: allocation to local agencies.  
As Introduced February 22, 2019 – SUPPORT  
To Be Heard in Assembly Governmental Organization Committee**

Dear Assemblymember Gray,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of AB 1375 (Bigelow) which would provide that the state share for the removal of dead and dying trees in connection with the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency be no more than 90% of total state eligible costs.

Since 2010, over 129 million trees have died in California due to historic drought and the proliferation of a deadly and invasive species of bark beetle. These dead and dying trees often remain standing or lay in place, creating vast areas of highly combustible fuel for wildfires throughout California. The crisis is so extreme that in October 2015 the Governor declared a state of emergency and created the Tree Mortality Task Force (TMFT) to address the issue. The group has now morphed into the larger Forest Management Working Group and tree mortality remains a key focus of the new working group. California has made significant progress, but more help and resources are needed. Californians have to look no farther than past several years of devastating wildfires to see the threat that wildfires and tree mortality pose to California.

The California Disaster Assistance Act currently requires the state to share no more than 75% of total eligible costs for disaster project allocations with local agencies. By increasing this share to 90%, AB 1375 (Bigelow) would help provide critical funds to local agencies, enabling the removal of additional hazardous trees from our forests.

CSAC is committed to working with our local, state and federal partners to address this critical issue. In addition, CSAC supported this concept last year when it was proposed through AB 2966 (Aguiar-Curry) This bill would help to provide badly needed resources to local governments who are ready and willing to partner with the state to address this statewide crisis. It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1375 (Bigelow). If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org) or 916-327-7500, ext. 504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cara Martinson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Cara Martinson  
Senior Legislative Representative

cc: Honorable Frank Bigelow, California State Assembly  
Members & Consultant, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee