



August 15, 2019

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The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95818

**Subject: SB 515 (Caballero): Public Utilities Commission: high hazard zone fuel: report
As Amended July 2nd, 2019 – SUPPORT
To Be Heard in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support SB 515 (Caballero) which would require the California Public Commission to submit a report to the Legislature with information regarding the amount of high hazard zone vegetation eligible for removal, an assessment of the overall market potential for high hazard zone fuel in California, and an assessment of the potential high hazard zone fuel supply for each current Biofuel Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) contract.

Biomass removal is essential to improving public safety, healthy forest management and tackling California's tree mortality crisis. CSAC and many of our County Supervisors are active participants in the Governor's Forest Management Working Group. Bioenergy generation is a frequent topic of discussion in these meetings and is very important tool to many rural communities that are the front lines dealing wildfire, climate change and tree mortality.

This bill will help achieve the goals of meeting California's renewable energy targets and improve forest health and public safety. It is for these reasons that we support SB 515 (Cabellero). Should you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact me at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org

Sincerely,

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

Cara B. Martinson
Senior Legislative Representative

Cc: Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Senate
Members & Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee