



Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

May 20, 2014

Assemblymember Chesbro:

We are writing this letter in support of AB2465, which would officially recognize the benefits of prescribed fire in California's fire-adapted landscapes, and facilitate new levels of professionalism for private lands burners throughout the state.

Prescribed fire is widely recognized within the fire science and management communities as a critical tool for wildfire hazard reduction, ecosystem restoration, forest and rangeland improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, and more. Studies show that prescribed fire is one of the most economical fuels treatment options, and that public support is high and is continuing to grow. However, there are a number of challenges to the use of prescribed fire, and we see AB2465 as an important step toward increasing support and capacity for its use in California.

AB2465 calls for the creation of a centralized webpage for private landowners, which would outline prescribed fire laws, regulations, and best management practices, and provide key contacts and other information pertaining to the use of prescribed fire on private lands. The bill also calls for the development of a uniform burn plan template, which would further clarify best management practices, encourage compliance with laws and regulations, help burners meet standards of due diligence, and maximize benefits and protection for the environment and the public. We support these key tenets of AB2465, as they will enable more informed use of prescribed fire, and increase the professionalism and safety of prescribed burn planning and implementation on private lands.

As noted above, we see AB2465 as an important first step; however, we recognize that more work will be necessary to address training and other needs around prescribed fire in California. In discussions with CAL FIRE and other partners, and in reviewing solutions from other states, we've identified a certified burner program as a possible pathway for increasing training opportunities and giving burners the requisite skills and experience to best utilize the tools outlined in AB2465. We look forward to further exploring this option, and to building on the momentum and interest that the current bill has inspired.

Please accept this letter of support from the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council and our partners, and let us know if you have any questions or need further information. Thanks again for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Lenya Quinn-Davidson; Director, Northern California Prescribed Fire Council; Staff Research Associate,
UC Cooperative Extension—Humboldt

Nick Goulette; Chair, Northern California Prescribed Fire Council; Director, Watershed Research and
Training Center



Adam Watts; Deputy Director, Program for Climate, Ecosystem, and Fire Applications; Desert Research Institute

Erin Kelly, Professor of Forest Policy, Humboldt State University

Gail Pittman, Siskiyou County resident

Gary Fildes, Yuba County landowner

Jack Bramhall, RPF #1772, CPESC #471

Jared Dahl Aldern, Ph.D.; Steering Committee Member, Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council

Jeff Kane, Professor of Fire Science, Humboldt State University

Petronila E. Mandeno, Digital Mapping Solutions

Phillip Dye, Fire Management Consultant, Santa Clara County

Ryan Desantis, Forestry/Natural Resources Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension—Shasta, Trinity, Siskiyou Counties

Thaddeus Koster, Trinity County resident

Partner Organizations:

Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson & Associates, Inc.

Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC); Gary Graham Hughes, Executive Director

Forest Landowners of California; Lawrence Camp, President

Klamath Forest Alliance; Kimberly Baker, Executive Director

Lakehead Fire Safe Council, Shasta County

O'Brien Mountain Homeowner's Association; Dale Dondero, President

Oregon Prescribed Fire Council; Amanda Stamper, Chair

Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment (SAFE); Larry Glass, President

Sierra Forest Legacy; Karina Silvas-Bellanca, Fire Policy Coordinator

Southern Oregon Prescribed Fire Network; Jim Wells, Chair

The Nature Conservancy, California

Wood's Fire and Emergency Services, Inc.; Rock P. Wood, Owner