



March 14, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814
senator.allen@senate.ca.gov

RE: Northwestern California Environmental Organizations Support SB 50

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Northcoast Environmental Center, Humboldt Baykeeper, Friends of Del Norte, and Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment, we write to thank you for your support of SB 50, the Public Lands Protection Act.

SB 50 would make it the state policy of California to oppose all transfers and divestments of federal public land. This is a strong but unfortunately necessary statement. Furthermore, SB 50 would direct the state Lands Commission to establish a right of first refusal for any lands that are discharged. Our organizations fully support this right of first refusal as a necessary tool to ensure that, where feasible, important public lands remain in public hands.

It is a sad state of the world when legislation like SB 50 is necessary. California is special in large part because of its vast amount of public federal land. From Klamath National Forest in the north to the Cleveland National Forest to the south, our public lands not only provide clean water and support wildlife, but they are also our backyards and playgrounds. These lands are part of our common heritage, shared by all people alike.

We urge you to support SB 50 and sincerely appreciate your efforts to keep California green and gold.

If you have any questions or require anything additional from us, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wheeler
Executive Director, Environmental Protection
Information Center

Larry Glass
Executive Director, Northcoast Environmental
Center
Executive Director, Safe Alternatives for our
Forest Environment

Jen Kalt,
Director, Humboldt Baykeeper

Joe Gillespie
President, Friends of Del Norte