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April 22, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Via Fax: (202) 224-2200 & (202) 228-3865

RE: Support for S. 3288, the PUBLIC Lands Act

Dear Senator Harris:

We are elected officials representing communities in California's 2nd Congressional District. We strongly support your PUBLIC Lands Act (S. 3288) that will:

- Promote forest restoration and fuel-reduction across over 700,000 acres of public land in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. Trees will be carefully thinned along roads, near private land and in other important areas to reduce fire danger and improve forest health and diversity. This will help sustain local timber jobs and generate wood products.
- Protect over 313,000 acres as wilderness in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties. These are some of the wildest and most remote areas remaining on public lands in northwestern California.
- Protect 379 miles of stream as wild and scenic rivers in the 4 counties. These are some of the most important streams in our region for salmon and steelhead trout.
- Authorize the construction of over 295 miles of new trails open to horses, hikers and mountain bikes in the four counties.
- Help restore the thousands of sites on public lands affected by illegal marijuana cultivation.
- Authorize the construction of new visitor centers in Trinity and Del Norte Counties that can help educate locals and tourists alike about northwestern California's public lands.

S. 3288 is undoubtedly one of the most collaboratively-developed public lands conservation bills in California history. For example, Representative Huffman:

- Enlisted local people to spend 3 years asking an extremely diverse array of stakeholders why they value public lands, and what policy issues Rep. Huffman should address in public lands legislation.
- Used the input to create draft proposals meant to address a variety of issues raised by stakeholders.
- Released a draft bill for public review. He left his bill online for over a year and accepted comments.
- Held four public meetings about the draft bill in 2018 in Crescent City, Eureka, Ukiah and Weaverville that were attended by over 550 people.
- Made many changes to his draft bill before introducing it.
- Made it clear that he would consider additional changes even after introduction.
- Made several major changes after introduction such as dropping some areas that had been proposed for wilderness designation.
- Appeared at a meeting of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors in 2019 to discuss the bill with the community.

This sort of transparency and collaboration in developing federal legislation is quite unusual. We applaud you and Rep. Huffman for being so open to community input while developing the bill.

We believe S. 3288 will benefit our region by reducing fire danger, protecting and restoring some of our best remaining wild lands and streams, increasing recreation opportunities and creating jobs. Public lands are an economic draw, and well-managed and protected public lands can be an economic engine.

Thank you for introducing the PUBLIC Lands Act. Please feel free to call upon us if there is some other way that we can help to advance this important measure.

Sincerely,



Michael Winkler, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102

Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org

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