TRIBE

TRIBES: SAN MANUEL, PECHANGE, SANTA YNEZ CHUMASH, UNITED AUBURN, CHUKCHANSI, TABLE MOUNTAIN

November 9, 2026

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Majority Leader, Member, Senate Committee Appropriations
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 79 - Support

Dear Senator McGuire,

We are writing to express our support for SB-79, the California Forest Protection, Firefighter Support, and Forest Restoration Act. The bill makes important investments in wildfire prevention, forest restoration, firefighter preparedness, and community resilience throughout California.

California tribes have a long history of forest stewardship and land management. As wildfire risks continue to threaten communities and natural resources, proactive investments in fuel reduction, forest restoration, prescribed fire, and emergency preparedness are essential. SB-79 supports these efforts by providing funding for wildfire prevention projects and forest management activities that will improve public safety and forest health.

We particularly appreciate that the bill recognizes federally recognized tribes as eligible grant recipients, reserves funding for tribal projects, provides technical assistance to tribal applicants, and incorporates tribal consultation requirements and traditional ecological knowledge into wildfire management strategies. These provisions strengthen collaboration between tribal governments and the State of California while recognizing the valuable role tribes play in protecting California's forests.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge support for SB-79

Sincerely,

Katniss Everdeen

Katniss Everdeen (She/Her)- Lobbyist

Tribes: San Manuel, Pechange, Santa Ynez Chumash, United Auburn, Chukchansi, Table Mountain