

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT (0500)

No. 2 April 1998

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P. O. Box 944246
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A7

February 21, 1997

Honorable Debra Bowen, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2196
P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0001

Dear Assembly Member Bowen:

Support of AB 169 as introduced January 27, 1997

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is in full support of AB 169 and respectfully requests your affirmative vote on the bill.

This measure appropriates \$69,000,000 from the General Fund to CDF for emergency fire suppression costs for the 1995-96 fiscal year in augmentation of Item 3540-006-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 1996 (referred to as the Emergency Fund).

Due to an unprecedented level of fire suppression activity during the 1996 Fire Season, this deficiency request is higher than in previous years. Below-average rainfall during the last rainy season resulted in wildland fuel conditions that were significantly drier than normal. This was a contributing factor in the 7,961 wildland fires in 1996. This number is up nearly 13 percent over last year and up nearly 9 percent over the five-year average. What is more significant than the total number of fires is the number of state responsibility acres burned last year - 232,541 acres, nearly 87 percent over last year and 96 percent over the five-year average. In addition, one major fire incident occurred from October 21-31 which resulted in a state/federally declared emergency.

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The bulk of the appropriation in AB 169 covers costs not funded in the support budget for extended attack fire suppression. Included are costs for labor and overtime for CDF as well as labor costs for the Department of Corrections, California Youth Authority, and California Conservation Corps crews; costs for airtankers, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and overtime beyond the initial attack period.

We would be happy to discuss our support position with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Wilson
Director

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cc: Assembly Member Bordonaro
Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs,
The Resources Agency
Chief, Office of Legislation, CDF

CONSERVATION IS WISE - KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

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