

Date May 31st, 2019

To: The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair
The Honorable Brian Jones, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: **AB 1160 (Dahle) Forestry: Sustained Yield Plans**



STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE

PROGRESSIVE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

NAMIC

PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC) is a statewide trade association that represents five of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, and Nationwide as well as associate member NAMIC) who write personal line auto and home insurance in California. PIFC is pleased to support AB 1160 (Dahle).

PIFC member companies understand that forests are one of the primary foundations for California's rich biodiversity. They are the source of most of California's water, play an important role in regulating our climate, and are a recreational destination for Californians and people around the world. However, overgrown forests increase California's risk for catastrophic wildfires that can result in serious statewide consequences, including threats to life, property and the forests themselves.

While most of the natural communities of plants and animals have adapted to natural fire conditions, these natural communities are now at risk from catastrophic wildfire primarily due to the hazardous fuel conditions. Also at risk are the communities that interface with these wildlands, including those within wildland-urban interface (WUI) and rural areas. Strategic management and control of wildland vegetation is essential to the safety, health, recreational, and economic wellbeing of California's citizens.

PIFC supports policies that reduce fire intensity through vegetation management, which can substantially aid in wildland fire containment and control, while creating safety zones for fire fighter and citizen safety.

PIFC also supports efforts to reduce fire risk and restore already damaged areas and reduce impacts in local communities and on vulnerable populations.

Towards that end PIFC **supports AB 1160 (Dahle)**, which requires a Sustained yield Plan (SYP) to be effective for a period of up to 20 years instead of the current 10 year limit. By giving these plans additional time for completion land owners will have the ability to complete their projects without the added time and expense of refiling a complex SYP. This modest change will help these projects get completed so California can reduce fire risk, and protect lives and property by improving forest health and vegetation management.

If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assemblymember Brian Dahle, Author
Bill Craven, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor