



# County of Fresno

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May 1, 2018

The Honorable Jim Patterson  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3132  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2585 (Patterson) – Support: Prescribed Burns: Burn  
Managers: Liability**

Dear Assembly Member Patterson:

On behalf of the County of Fresno we write in support of your Assembly Bill (AB) 2585. This bill will promote the utilization of prescribed burning by establishing a voluntary certification process for prescribed burn managers under the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Under this bill, property owners who conduct a prescribed burn under the supervision of a burn manager will no longer be held liable for damage or injury caused by fire or smoke, unless negligence is proven.

There are numerous advantages to using prescribed burns as one of many tools for managing the state's forests. It can return forests to their natural fire-adapted state and remove buildup of forest fuels, further decreasing the risk of wildfires. Current avenues for private landowners to conduct a prescribed fire are severely underutilized because the landowner is liable for the fire. This bill will allow CAL FIRE to secure an insurance policy to provide compensation for any injuries or property damage resulting from the prescribed fire operations performed in accordance with permitted guidelines under the supervision of a burn manager.

California experienced one of the worst fire seasons in modern history and the existing state of our forests creates a ticking time bomb for major catastrophic wildfires moving forward. AB 2585 is a necessary measure that will help reduce naturally occurring vegetative fuels, which will save lives and property in the future.

The Honorable Jim Patterson  
California State Assembly  
May 1, 2018  
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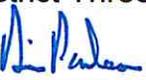
For these reasons, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors supports AB 2585.

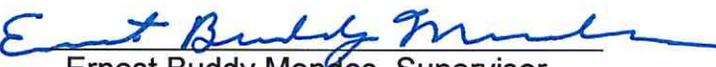
Sincerely,

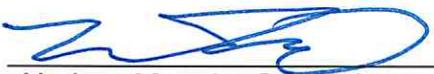
**Fresno County Board of Supervisors**

  
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District Five

cc: Fresno County Legislative Delegation  
Paul J. Yoder, State Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties