

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 26, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Save Our Sequoias Act (McCarthy & Peters) – SUPPORT

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

The Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support the Save Our Sequoias (SOS) Act, which will enhance coordination between Federal, State, Tribal, and local land managers to accelerate science-based forest treatments to improve the resilience of Giant Sequoias to the dangers of wildfire.

Over a century of fire suppression mismanagement has created a massive build-up of hazardous fuels around the Giant Sequoias, leading to unnaturally intense wildfires. Since 2015, fires in California have destroyed nearly one-fifth of all Giant Sequoias.

The County of Kern applauds the SOS Act's funding and establishment of a new grant program to support the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction treatments in and around Giant Sequoia groves. Additionally, the codification of expedited emergency procedures and environmental reviews along with comprehensive reforestation strategies to regenerate Giant Sequoias will help ensure the survival of one of California's most revered natural wonders.

For these reasons, our Board fully endorses the SOS Act and will continue to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jeff Flores".

Jeff Flores, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kern County Fire Department
Carpi & Clay