



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of Chief Thom Porter as Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Chief Thom Porter as the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

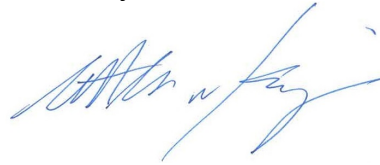
RCRC member counties contain the vast majority of California's forested lands and have suffered many of the State's most damaging wildfires in the past decade. Our counties have a history and need to work with the State's forest management and firefighting agency to ensure the public health and safety of our counties' residents through fuels reduction, wildfire prevention, community protection, and mutual aid prior to and during wildfire events. RCRC member counties and staff have already established a strong working relationship with Chief Porter through his work with the Governor's Forest Management Task Force and his quick attention to issues at local CAL FIRE units. As a registered professional forester, RCRC believes in the even stronger commitment Chief Porter has already made to broadening CAL FIRE's attention to forest health programs to prevent future catastrophic wildfires and restore California's forests while strengthening community protection efforts statewide.

For the above reasons, RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Chief Porter. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with him into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Kingsley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Kingsley
Member, Inyo County Board of Supervisors
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
Chief Thom Porter, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection