



# County of Fresno

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June 21, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: The Save Our Sequoias Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Representative McCarthy:

On behalf of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of the "Save Our Sequoias Act" (SOS Act) which would protect, enhance, and restore our Giant Sequoia groves here in Fresno County and adjacent counties.

These ancient trees have survived several millennia only to be threatened by forest management practices over the last few decades. These practices have created a massive build-up of fuels in and around our Giant Sequoia groves. Although Giant Sequoias are naturally fire-resilient, this accumulation of fuel has led to unnaturally intense, high-severity wildfires. In the last two years alone, these fires have decimated nearly one-fifth of all Giant Sequoias on the planet. With this expedited timeline of destruction, the very existence of our world-renowned Giant Sequoias is at risk.

Significant action to mitigate the dangers of these wildfires through fuel reduction practices has been too slow due to lack of resources, environmental resistance, regulation, and litigation. At its current pace, it would take the U.S. Forest Service approximately 52 years to treat just their 19 most at-risk Giant Sequoia groves. We need to take immediate action to secure the health and longevity of these groves.

The SOS Act will provide land managers with the emergency tools and resources needed to save the remaining Giant Sequoia groves. The bill will improve interagency coordination between Federal, State, Tribal, and local land managers, through shared stewardship agreements. The SOS Act also establishes a comprehensive reforestation strategy to restore groves that have been lost to wildfire and funds a new grant program to facilitate increased hazardous fuel reduction practices. All this will take place under an expedited process provided by a declared emergency to codify existing emergency procedures, fast-track environmental reviews, while also maintaining robust scientific analysis.

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The SOS Act will ensure that our Giant Sequoia groves are healthy and thriving for generations to come. For these reasons, Fresno County strongly supports the SOS Act.

Sincerely,



Brian Pacheco, Chairman  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

cc: Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Tom McClintock  
Honorable Scott Peters  
Aniela Butler, House National Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
Fresno County Federal Legislative Delegation  
David Wetmore & Laura Morgan-Kessler Federal Legislative Advocate