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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

June 20, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Congressman 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,

Zack Scrivner, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

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cc: Kern County Fire Department
Carpi & Clay