



August 15, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Support for the Range of Light National Monument

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned legislators, encourage you to support the establishment of the Range of Light National Monument, which will protect 1.4 million acres of federal land between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks. This special place between these two iconic parks is in the center of the longest interconnected wilderness in the lower 48 states. The preservation of this region presents a rare opportunity to create an integrated ecosystem in one of the most biodiverse places in the world.

From the blue oak woodlands to the granite spires of the high alpine, the beauty and biodiversity of the Sierra Nevada is remarkable. While the Sierra Nevada covers just 20 percent of California's land mass, half of California's native plant species live there. More than 400 of these species are found nowhere else on earth, including the giant sequoia. The Range of Light region is home to 24 species listed by state and federal agencies as endangered or threatened. To protect them, the monument preserves six distinct ecoregions and three major watersheds: the Kings, the Merced and the San Joaquin Rivers.

Not only will the monument benefit native species, but it will also provide a peaceful respite for humanity. Social justice, accessible recreation, and health and wellness would be enhanced for the nearby population in the Central Valley, which is 73% people of color. A disproportionately high number of these residents suffer from poverty, air pollution, and asthma, lack access to parks and nature, and have poorer educational opportunities and lower life expectancies. A monument in this area would serve the people who need it most. Notably, the

new national monument would increase local employment by some 2,900 jobs, 40 new jobs for every job displaced, and catalyze park-based tourism, residential growth, and business opportunities worth \$1.1 billion annually.

Adding 1.4 million acres to America's conserved lands would also significantly advance the goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands by 2030, as President Biden and California have pledged to do. In a single action, the monument would increase your administration's legacy by at least 20 percent. This would preserve and expand forests sequestering carbon and protect and create a wildlife corridor critical to enabling plants and animals to adapt to climate change. The Sierra Nevada's forest fights global warming, purifies the watershed, and stabilizes soils, which store additional carbon and provide the basis of life in the entire region.

More than 160 businesses and organizations support this campaign, including the California Democratic Party, the DNC, the social justice community, the North Fork Mono tribe, and a coalition of environmental groups, including Audubon, the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity. In 2022, Rep. Jackie Speier introduced legislation to protect this area, and 11 members of congress co-sponsored the legislation.

Please urge President Biden to use the Antiquities Act to create the Range of Light National Monument and to protect this special place for all people for all time.

Sincerely,



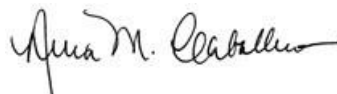
Dr. Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember, District 31



Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations
Assemblymember, District 14



Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources
Assemblymember, District 55



Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations
Senator, District 14



Dave Min
Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Water
Senator, District 37



Anthony Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review
Senator, District 11



Jim Wood
Speaker pro Tempore
Assemblymember, District 2



Anthony Rendon
Speaker Emeritus
Assemblymember, District 62



Toni G. Atkins
President pro Tempore Emeritus
Senator, District 39



Josh Becker
Senator, District 13



Steve Bennett
Assemblymember, District 38



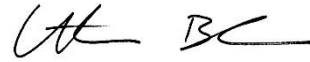
Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
Senator, District 28



Bill Dodd
Senator, District 3



Ash Kalra
Assemblymember, District 25



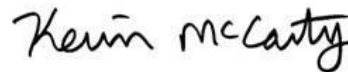
Catherine Blakespear
Senator, District 38



Susan Talamantes Eggman
Senator, District 5



Laura Friedman
Assemblymember, District 44



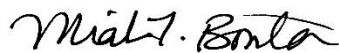
Kevin McCarty
Assemblymember, District 6



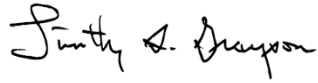
Lisa Calderon
Assemblymember, District 56



Pilar Schiavo
Assemblymember, District 40



Mia Bonta
Assemblymember, District 18



Timothy Grayson
Assemblymember, District 15



James Ramos
Assemblymember, District 45



Mike A. Gipson
Assemblymember, District 65



Matt Haney
Assemblymember, District 17



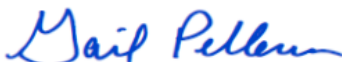
Al Muratsuchi
Assemblymember, District 66



Marc Berman
Assemblymember, District 23



Mike Fong
Assemblymember, District 49



Gail Pellerin
Assemblymember, District 28



Stephanie Nguyen
Assemblymember, District 10



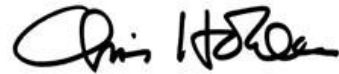
Alex Lee
Assemblymember, District 24



Gregg Hart
Assemblymember, District 37



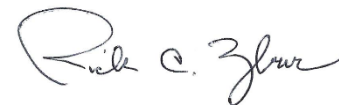
Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, District 67



Chris R. Holden
Assemblymember, District 41



Liz Ortega
Assemblymember, District 20



Rick Chavez Zbur
Assemblymember, District 51



Esmeralda Soria
Assemblymember, District 27



Josh Lowenthal
Assemblymember, District 69



Luz Rivas
Assemblymember, District 43



Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, District 12



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Assemblymember, District 16



Tina McKinnor
Assemblymember, District 61



Thomas Umberg
Senator, District 34



Monique Limón
Senator, District 19



Anthony Portantino
Senator, District 25



Lori Wilson
Assemblymember, District 11



Susan Rubio
Senator, District 22



Henry Stern
Senator, District 27



Blanca Rubio
Assemblymember, District 48



Philip Ting
Assemblymember, District 19



Benjamin Allen
Senator, District 24

Cc: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Meghan Hertel, Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity and Habitat, California
Natural Resources Agency
Sara Aminzadeh, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs
Miranda Flores, Deputy Secretary for Legislation

