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September 8, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to SB 1648

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The Northern California Society of American Foresters has serious concerns about the recently-passed SB 1648, which amends the management and use of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Our organization, representing over 700 professional foresters in northern California, strongly opposes this bill.

The adverse impacts to the regional economy, the state, and the environment will be significant if this bill is signed. The bill exacerbates the problems of the “no-management” panacea held out by preservationists who are not conservationists.

Some of the reasons to oppose this initiative are:

- **JDSF has been a financial asset to the state, until recently. This bill will make the forest a financial liability at a time of deep budgetary difficulty.**
- **Active management of (JDSF) over the past 50+ years has been directly responsible for restoration and enhancement of the forest.** Without that management, it is unlikely that JDSF would provide the resource, environment, and recreation benefits that the county and state currently enjoy.
- **Not actively managing the forest will have negative environmental consequences.** Impacts will include minimal maintenance on roads, accumulation of fuels, and accelerated conversion of neighboring forests, not to mention lack of financial support for the state nurseries, CFIP, and other programs
- **The public already has the opportunity to comment on management and timber harvesting plans.** The addition of an advisory committee and an interagency technical committee to direct

activities on the forest will hinder, not help, the forward movement of appropriate management activities.

- **Restrictions on harvesting methods are inappropriate.** These decisions should be made by forest management professionals.
- **The bill attempts to re-write the management direction of JDSF in a manner that is not compatible with the original enabling legislation.**
- **The measure has limited support within the state.** Even in Mendocino County, where the forest is located, there is a great deal of opposition to this bill.

Governor, we hope that you will recognize, as many people within Mendocino County have, that this bill does not represent true conservation. We trust that you will recognize this and act accordingly.

Sincerely,

Claralynn Nunamaker, Chair
Northern California Society of American Foresters

Cc: Mr. Dale Geldert, Chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Mr. Stan Dixon, Chairman, California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
The Honorable Wesley Chesbro
Chris Quirnbach, President, California Licensed Foresters Association
Mr. Hal Wagenet, Chairman, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Northern California Society of American Foresters Executive Committee