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April 17, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 287 (Dodd): Habitat restoration: invasive species: Phytophthora pathogens – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Lara,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to write in support of SB 287 (Dodd) and respectfully request your “aye” vote when this bill is heard in your committee. SB 287 will require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that habitat restoration projects use clean nursery stock to minimize the spread of Phytophthora plant pathogens into wildlands.

Phytophthora is a group of microscopic plant pathogens that persists in soil and causes plant roots to rot and limit its intake of water and nutrients. This pathogen proliferates on native vegetation and agricultural, horticultural, and forest plants. Currently, over 50 Phytophthora species have been detected in the United States with new hybrid species in habitat restoration plantings and native plant nurseries throughout California. Unfortunately, many of our native plants have little resistance to this pathogen which can potentially cause irreparable damage to our sensitive habitats.

The California Forest Pest Council reports that nursery stock and human activity is the most direct and efficient means of Phytophthora introduction. Up to date, Phytophthora has infested native plants communities and caused significant decline and mortality.

SB 287 (Dodd) recognizes Phytophthora is extremely difficult to eradicate once introduced and depletes our wildlands of its unique native vegetation. Therefore, SB 287 (Dodd) will adopt regulations for habitat restoration or enhancement projects to minimize and prevent the risk of Phytophthora pathogens in plant materials use.

For these reasons, the Solano County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 287 (Dodd) and respectfully requests your aye vote when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC: The Honorable Bill Dodd
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Paul Yoder, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.