



September 2, 2016

<p>Agenda Item VIII DMCA 9/9/16</p>

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SUPPORT** for AB 2087 (Levine)

Dear Governor Brown,

The following organizations write in support of AB 2087 Regional conservation investment strategies. By creating a framework for conservation planning that identifies wildlife and habitat conservation priorities at a landscape level, this bill will ensure that public expenditures are informed by the best conservation science, which is all the more important as our state contends with an accelerating loss of habitats due to climate change, infrastructure development and other stressors.

With limited budgets and tremendous habitat needs, California must be more strategic about where and how it invests in conservation and provides incentives for habitat protection; it must encourage regional conservation planning; and it must be nimbler and more efficient in capitalizing on opportunities before important habitat is converted to other uses.

California currently needs an efficient approach for regional, large-scale conservation planning that identifies needs and priorities for wildlife and habitat conservation, improves the effectiveness of public investments in wildlife conservation, and assists in guiding infrastructure projects and identifying no-regret areas for mitigation investments for those projects.

By creating Regional conservation investment strategies, AB 2087 provides a flexible, efficient and science-based approach which allows entities to proactively protect, restore and steward high value conservation priorities in a region, and encourages counties and public and private infrastructure entities to conserve important lands and waters before nature's benefits are lost forever.

For these reasons we support AB 2087.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth O'Donoghue
The Nature Conservancy

Andrea Mackenzie
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Danielle Segura
Mojave Desert Land Trust

Jeannette Tuitele
Big Sur Land Trust

Jill Bays
Transition Habitat Conservancy

Michael Lynes
Audubon California

Kim Kolpin
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Claire Schlotterbeck
Hills for Everyone

Bill Keene
**Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation
and Open Space District**

Jamison Watts
Marin Agricultural Land Trust