



March 5, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
 State Capitol, Room 4140  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 209 (Limón) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

On behalf of our collective organizations, we urge you to support Assembly Bill (AB) 209.

We believe we have a responsibility to advocate for park and environmental policies and resources that enhance the health and happiness of our children - and by doing so, we will foster the next generation of empowered parks stewards who, in return, have an appreciation for the significant benefits of the outdoors and parks.

California is home to some of the most unique and world-famous natural resources and state and national parks that draw thousands of tourists annually. Parks offer incredible places for play – to explore, gain appreciation for the treasures around them, imagine and peek curiosity.

Yet many Californians, especially those from disadvantage communities, do not experience these treasures in their own backyard.

As you know, unfortunately not all Californians who reflect the diversity of the state are experiencing and visiting state parks. This is especially true of the younger generations who are spending more and more time indoors. At a national level, children are spending less time outside than prison inmates, with the average child playing freely outside for just four to seven minutes a day, according to the recent report *The Path Ahead*. Additional research shows that children are spending half as much time outside today as they did 20 years ago. Couple that with the fact that 40% of U.S. School Districts have eliminated recess, and outdoor education programs and field trips have declined significantly over the years.

AB 209 works to give more of California's youth the opportunity to have enriched, meaningful experiences in the outdoors, fostering the future generation of empowered park stewards.

For the above reasons, we are proud to support AB 209 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rachel Norton  
Executive Director  
California State Parks Foundation

Kay Ogden  
Executive Director  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Katie Goodwin  
California Regional Director  
Access Fund

Martin Lowenstein  
Executive Director  
Friends of China Camp State Park

Erika Seward  
Co-Executive Director  
Bear Yuba Land Trust

John Lauretig  
Executive Director  
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Chair of Board of Directors  
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Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

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Community Nature Connection

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Ben McCue  
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Katherine O'Dea  
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Save Our Shores

Steve Frisch  
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