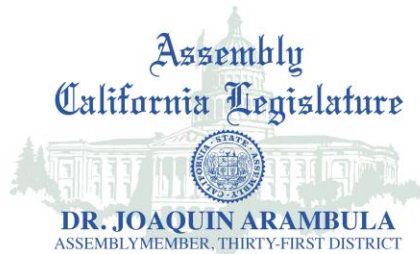


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May 22, 2024

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,

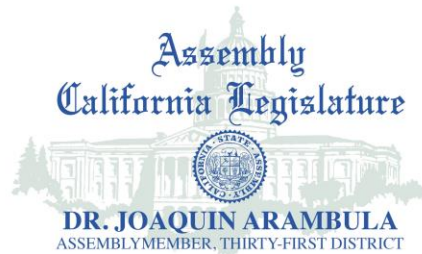
We, the undersigned legislators, encourage you to support the establishment of the Range of Light National Monument, which will protect 1.4 million acres of federal land between Yosemite and Kings Canyon National Parks. This special place between these two iconic parks is in the center of the longest 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

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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 Spier introduced legislation to protect this area, and 11 members of congress cosponsored 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.

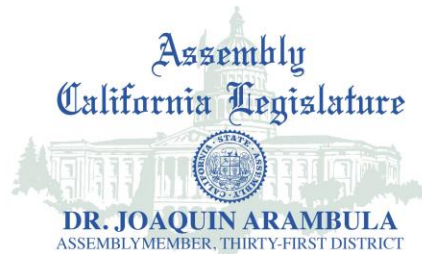
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JA", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Joaquin Arambula  
Assemblymember 31<sup>st</sup> District

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## Range of Light National Monument State Support - 7/4/2024

1. Asm. Ash Kalra
2. Asm. Mike Fong
3. Asm. Mike Gibson
4. Asm. Dr. Joaquin Arambula
5. Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva
6. Asm. Gail Pellerin
7. Asm. Liz Ortega
8. Asm. Laura Friedman
9. Asm. Tina McKinnor
10. Asm. Pilar Schiavo
11. Asm. Marc Berman
12. Asm. Kevin McCarty
13. Asm. Luz Rivas
14. Asm. Lori Wilson
15. Asm. Phil Ting
16. Asm. Chris Holden
17. Asm. Blanca E. Rubio
18. Asm. Mia Bonta
19. Asm. Alex Lee
20. Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
21. Asm. Damon Connolly
22. Asm. Tim Grayson
23. Asm. Dawn Addis
24. Asm. Steve Bennett
25. Asm. Speaker pro Tempore Jim Wood
26. Asm. James Ramos
27. Asm. Josh Lowenthal
28. Asm. Greg Hart



29. Asm. Matt Haney
30. Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur
31. Asm. Lisa Yvette Calderon
32. Asm. Al Muratsuchi
33. Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon
34. Senator Tom Umberg
35. Senator Catherine Blakespear
36. Senator Dave Cortese
37. Senator Anna Caballero
38. Senator Monique Limon
39. Senator Bill Dodd
40. Senator Josh Becker
41. Senator Henry Stern
42. Senator Josh Newman
43. Senator Dave Min
44. Senator Toni Atkins
45. Senator Ben Allen
46. Senator Susan Rubio
47. Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
48. Senator Susan Eggman
49. Senator Anthony Portantino
50. Senator Scott Wiener

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# Monument Map

