

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter Opposing AB 518 "Low Impact Camping" Legislation  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:06:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [2025 03 23 Letter Opposing AB 518 - LICA.pdf](#)

---

**From:** jonwitt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:52 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter Opposing AB 518 "Low Impact Camping" Legislation

\*\*\*\*CAUTION: This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Copy for all Board members.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:54 PM  
**To:** 'assemblymember.ward@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.ward@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ward@assembly.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'assemblymember.haney@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.haney@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.haney@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.joepatterson@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.joepatterson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.joepatterson@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.farias@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.farias@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.farias@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.caloz@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.caloz@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.caloz@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.gallagher@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.gallagher@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gallagher@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.lee@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.lee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.lee@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.quirk-silva@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.quirk-silva@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.quirk-silva@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.ta@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.ta@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ta@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'Patty.Schapiro@asm.ca.gov' <[Patty.Schapiro@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Patty.Schapiro@asm.ca.gov)>; 'assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov' <[assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'Assemblymember.Pellerin@assembly.ca.gov' <[Assemblymember.Pellerin@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Pellerin@assembly.ca.gov)>; 'senator.laird@senate.ca.gov' <[senator.laird@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.laird@senate.ca.gov)>; 'board of supervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov' <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter Opposing AB 518 "Low Impact Camping" Legislation

Dear Assemblymember Christopher M. Ward and other Members of the State Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development – Attached is a letter from Friends of the North Coast joining the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in opposition to

Assembly Bill 518 (Low Impact Camping), for the reasons set forth in the Board's letter attached.

Jonathan Wittwer, President  
Friends of the North Coast

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# FRIENDS OF THE NORTH COAST

Website <https://friendsofthenorthcoast.weebly.com/>  
Email address: [friendsofthenorthcoast@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthenorthcoast@gmail.com)

March 23, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward California State Assembly  
State Capitol [assemblymember.ward@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ward@assembly.ca.gov)  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0078

## **RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 518 (Low Impact Camping)**

Dear Assemblymember Ward,

The purpose of this letter is to join the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in opposition to Assembly Bill 518 (Low Impact Camping), for the reasons set forth in the Board's letter attached. AB 518 closely mirrors last year's Senate Bill 620, which was met with overwhelming opposition in Santa Cruz County and ultimately failed to advance in the state Legislature. Friends of the North Coast concurs with the Board's concerns as to critical issues such as wildfire dangers, emergency response capacity, and environmental review. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Friends of the North Coast (FONC)

By: *Jonathan Wittwer*

Jonathan Wittwer, FONC President

Copies to: Members of the State Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development: [assemblymember.haney@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.haney@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.ioepatterson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ioepatterson@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.farias@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.farias@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.caloz@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.caloz@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.gallagher@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.gallagher@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.kalra@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.lee@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.lee@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.quirk-silva@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.quirk-silva@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.soria@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.ta@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.ta@assembly.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov)  
[Patty.Schapiro@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Patty.Schapiro@asm.ca.gov)  
[assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov)  
Local Assemblymember, [Assemblymember.Pellerin@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Pellerin@assembly.ca.gov)  
Local State Senator, [senator.laird@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.laird@senate.ca.gov)  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors [boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)



# County of Santa Cruz

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069  
(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD/TTY - Call 711

MANU KOENIG  
FIRST DISTRICT

KIMBERLY DE SERPA  
SECOND DISTRICT

JUSTIN CUMMINGS  
THIRD DISTRICT

FELIPE HERNANDEZ  
FOURTH DISTRICT

MONICA MARTINEZ  
FIFTH DISTRICT

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Christopher M. Ward  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0078

### **RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 518 (Low Impact Camping)**

Dear Assemblymember Ward,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our unanimous opposition to Assembly Bill 518, which would authorize counties to enact ordinances allowing temporary camping on private property in rural areas without addressing critical issues such as wildfire dangers, emergency response capacity, and environmental review.

AB 518 closely mirrors last year's Senate Bill 620, which was met with overwhelming opposition from our community and ultimately failed to advance. Our Board has extensively deliberated the issue of low-impact camping and recognizes the risks associated with enacting such an ordinance. While we understand the intent of increasing access to camping opportunities, the proposed legislation does not include necessary safeguards to ensure the safety of both campers and existing residents in rural communities.

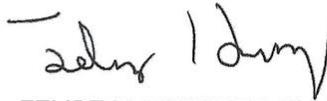
Santa Cruz County is particularly vulnerable to wildfires, and the proliferation of temporary camping sites in rural areas—many of which lack adequate road access and emergency response infrastructure—poses a significant public safety risk. AB 518 would allow properties of two acres or more to establish up to nine campsites without an onsite manager or adequate fire prevention measures, creating the potential for fire for hundreds of campsites in high-risk areas. The bill fails to address the increased burden this would place on local fire districts, which already face funding and staffing limitations. Moreover, there is no provision for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, preventing thorough assessment of potential environmental and public safety impacts.

Page 2  
RE: OPPOSITION TO AB 518  
February 28, 2025

Community opposition to low-impact camping ordinances has been well-documented in Santa Cruz County, with concerns focused on loss of homeowners insurance, increased traffic on already overburdened rural roads, and heightened wildfire danger. Given these concerns, and the absence of mitigation measures in AB 518, our Board opposes the current legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my office should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felipe Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

FELIPE HERNANDEZ, Chair  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator John Laird  
Assemblymember Dawn Addis  
Assemblymember Gail Pellerin  
Assemblymember Robert Rivas