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## **State of California Strongly Supports Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird sent the following letter to Congressman Mike Thompson reiterating the State of California’s strong support for the presidential designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The text is below:

December 10, 2014

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
231 Cannon House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

I write to again share California’s strong support for the establishment of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. While your legislation, H.R. 5545, was an important legislative effort, action by the Obama Administration seems to be the next logical step to protect this vital area.

As you know, the region encompassing Berryessa Snow Mountain is of unique biologic diversity and significance to California and the nation. The designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as a National Monument will provide much needed permanent protection in terms of its management, public access and long-term protection of environmental resources.

It is important to underscore that the efforts to designate these lands as a National Monument is widely supported by a diverse group of interests, including local businesses, nearby cities and all five counties within the region, private landowners, citizens, farmers, conservationists and recreation groups. In addition to the economic boost to the local economy estimated up to \$50 million, there seems to be broad support in ensuring that the region would be permanently protected for its recreation, habitat and watershed values.

Thank you for your leadership on the protection of Berryessa Snow Mountain. If your office should have any questions, please contact Todd Ferrara, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs in my office at (916) 653-5656.

Sincerely,

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources

cc: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Jared Huffman, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Garamendi, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Lois Wolk, California State Senate

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