



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



March XX, 2019

The Honorable Monique Limón
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6031
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 209 – SIGN-ON SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Limón,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express strong support for AB 209, your bill to establish the Outdoor Equity Grants Program at the Department of Parks and Recreation. If passed, this bill would help promote outdoor access and environmental education opportunities, especially among youth in underserved communities that need it the most.

We represent a broad range of environmental organizations that work on natural resource protection, marine conservation, park and beach access, environmental literacy and education, and more. Our organizations' priorities may differ, but we agree that outdoor experiences have tangible benefits and should be accessible to everyone. We also acknowledge that many Californians still face barriers to reaching the state's parks, beaches, and other outdoor areas, and that more must be done to ensure equitable outdoor access.

Because of this, we support AB 209 and its commitment to ensuring that everyone in the state can visit and learn about the outdoors. By establishing the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, AB 209 would improve the ability for students living in disadvantaged communities to participate in environmental education programs and experience nature. The bill addresses the biggest obstacles to outdoor access, including transportation, and emphasizes providing access to youth and young adults that have historically struggled to reach and enjoy these areas and their benefits. In doing so, this bill would help cultivate an appreciation for the outdoors and natural resources among youth, which is essential in fostering future generations of environmental stewardship and protection.

As organizations committed to these goals, we believe that ensuring outdoor access to everyone is of incomparable importance. For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 209 and we thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jose Gonzalez
Founder
Latino Outdoors

Cindy Blain
Executive Director
California ReLeaf

Greg Suba
Conservation Program Director
California Native Plant Society

Mike Lynes
Policy Director
Audubon California

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš
Founder & Director
Azul