



June 3, 2020

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2054 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kamlager:

On behalf of California ReLeaf – a nonprofit providing support and services to community-based urban forest groups across the state -- I am writing to applaud your leadership in authoring AB 2054.

The brutal and unsettling images of May that captured headlines and sparked outrage in populations around the globe force us to recognize that, as a nation, we are failing to fulfill the basic human rights of Dr. King's Dream, as well as our nation's promises embedded in the U.S. Constitution. Systemic racial injustice is unacceptable anywhere and it is once again time for California lead in the fight in creating a better, fully equitable path.

AB 2054 takes an important step in that direction. By establishing the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act pilot grant program, you are creating a safer space for vulnerable populations by strengthening, expanding and promoting community-based responses to emergency situations.

While we are not a racial justice organization, California ReLeaf and our Network work with grassroots organizations in many underserved neighborhoods to grow stronger, greener, and healthier communities through trees. Our project partners are often social equity and racial justice organizations who support those that have endured experiences that underscore the need for this bill.

For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 2054 and again thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Mills".

Chuck Mills
Director, Public Policy and Grants

CC: Howard Quan, Legislative Director to Assemblymember Kamlager