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VANCE CONSTRUCTION • WIDGITAL • WILD AT HEART OJAI • WILD IDEAS, LLC.

August 14, 2020

Mr. Kevin Elliott
Los Padres National Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
6750 Navigator Way, Ste 150
Goleta, CA 93117

Re: Objection on Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction #58012

Dear Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliott:

The undersigned businesses are writing to express opposition to the Forest Service's proposed logging and chaparral removal project along six miles of Pine Mountain Ridge in the Los Padres National Forest. We understand that the project entails removing trees up to 24" in diameter—and even some as large as five feet in diameter—on one of the most important and beloved mountains in Ventura County. The

Forest Service has suggested that the project would be executed through a timber sale or stewardship contract, either of which could involve commercial logging of trees more than a century old.

We are also concerned that the Forest Service intends to exploit the use of categorical exclusions to justify the lowest level of environmental review and the least amount of public input for this project. Excluding the project from standard environmental review is not in the public's interest, nor does it do justice to the rare plants, roadless and proposed wilderness areas, special-status wildlife, old-growth forests and chaparral, important Native American cultural sites, and the world-class recreation opportunities that define Pine Mountain Ridge.

We support the preservation of the benefits Pine Mountain Ridge provides to our region's economy and quality of life. Our companies are diverse, but we all share a common interest in ensuring that our region remains a premier destination to work, live, and visit. Pine Mountain draws visitors from around the region, state, and country. It is a beloved destination for hiking, camping, birding, bouldering, and wildlife photography, and it is one of the very few places along California's central and south coasts where people can enjoy high-elevation conifer forests.

Protected popular places like Pine Mountain Ridge provide a boon to our local economies. Throughout the year, over one million people visit Los Padres National Forest and spend over \$24 million during their travel and visit. They purchase gas at our local service stations, food at our local restaurants and grocery stores, lodging at our local hotels, and supplies and necessities at our local shops. California's outdoor recreation industry contributes over \$92 billion in consumer spending, contributes \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue, and directly supports 691,000 jobs. This vital economic driver will be critical in our post-COVID economic recovery. Popular outdoor recreation areas help nearby communities diversify economically while increasing quality of life and recreational opportunities that make our cities and towns more attractive to new residents, businesses, and investment.

We support science-based forestry measures including smart vegetation management directly adjacent to structures to protect communities from wildfire. This project is located miles from any community and is not the best or most effective use of our communities' limited fire protection resources. Further, studies suggest that tree removal and the inevitable introduction and spread of more flammable invasive weeds could make the area more susceptible to wildfire and less resilient.

On behalf of our employees, customers, and clients, we urge you to conduct a thorough environmental assessment of the Pine Mountain/Reyes Peak project before cutting trees and clearing habitat. The economic and environmental health of our region depends on it.

Sincerely,

Dennis Allen, Chairman of the Board
Allen Construction
Santa Barbara, CA

Olga Jones, Advisor
Ameriprise Financial Franchise
Ojai, CA

Rhett Jacobi, Owner
Arbor Construction
Ojai, CA

Tom Weisel, President
Arch Day Designs
Ventura, CA

Laurel Moore & Elizabeth Haffner
Owner/General Manager
Azu, Ojai, CA

Jennifer Peck Wheir, CEO
Beacon Coffee Company
Ojai, CA

Jeff Becker, President
Becker Group
Ventura, CA

Steve Beckmen, Winemaker
Beckmen Vineyards
Los Olivos, CA

Lynn and Reno Rolle, Co-Founders
Bōku International
Ojai, CA

Therese Hartmann, Branch Manager
C2 Financial Corporation
Ojai, CA

Cam Campbell, CEO
California Solar Electric Systems, Inc.
Ojai, CA

Carol Gravelle, Owner
Carol Gravelle Graphic Design
Camarillo, CA

Dylan Johnson, Owner
DJA Architects
Santa Barbara, CA

Dr. Beatrice Battier, DVM
Dr. Battier's Veterinary Clinic
Camarillo, CA

James Lowery, Owner,
Earth Skills
Frazer Park, CA

Greg Frugoli, President
Ecotones Landscapes, Inc.
San Luis Obispo, CA

J. Roger Essick, Owner
Essick Farm Management Company
Ojai, CA

Jaime Dietenhofer, Founder/CEO
Figueroa Mountain Brewing Company,
Buellton, CA

Terre Dunivant, Owner/Creative Partner
Gaia Graphics and Associates
San Luis Obispo, CA

Gary Bulla, Owners
Gary Bulla Architectural Woodworks
Santa Paula, CA

Gary Bulla, Owner
Gary Bulla's Flyfishing Adventures
Santa Paula, CA

Rich Hill, President
Grassroots Outdoor Alliance
Ventura, CA

Jessica McQueen, Founder
Henna Caravan
Camarillo, CA

Garrett Gerstenberger, Owner
High Desert Printing Company
New Cuyama, CA

Jim Davis, Owner
ImageSource
Ventura, CA

Tracy Strum, Artist / Owner
Inspire Artfulness, Inc.
Ventura, CA

Garrett Gerstenberger, President
Island View Outfitters
Isla Vista, CA

Bergh, Owner
KB Creatives Co
San Diego, CA

Ed Kish, Owner
Kish Rigging, Inc.
Moorpark, CA

Merlin Camozzi, Attorney,
Law Office of Merlin Camozzi
Los Angeles, CA

Gay Martin, General Manager
Marche Gourmet
Ojai, CA

Marcia Burttt, Owner
Marcia Burttt Gallery
Santa Barbara, CA

Michael Palmer & Eva Ein, Owners
McConnell's Fine Ice Creams
Santa Barbara, CA

Jeremy Haffner, Owner/Brewer
Ojai Valley Brewery
Ojai, Ca

Hans Cole, Director of Environmental Campaigns
& Advocacy
Patagonia, Ventura, CA

Tonya Peralta, Owner
Peralta Real Estate Services
Ojai, CA

Trevor Quirk and Aletheia Gooden, Owner
Quirk Law Firm, LLP
Ventura, CA

Tim Coates, Owner
Real Cheap Sports
Ventura, CA

Michelle Stevens, Founder and CEO
Refill Shoppe
Ventura, CA

Steven Tiller, CEO
SeaVeas
Santa Barbara, CA

Jennifer Armbrust, Owner
Sister
Carpinteria, CA

Vina Lustado, CEO Owner
Sol Haus Design
Ojai, CA

David & Anna deLaski, Winemaker & Owners
Solminer Wine Co.
Los Olivos, CA

Marcia Burttt, Owner
Sowle Ranch
Southern San Luis Obispo County, CA

Kathleen Nolan, President, Landscape Architect
Studio Landscape
Ojai, CA

Jeff Vance and Ferial Sadeghian, Owners
The Cuyama Buckhorn
New Cuyama, CA

Josh Haring, Owner
The Mountain Air
San Luis Obispo, CA

Fabien Castel, General Manager
The Ojai Vineyard
Oak View, CA

Anne Williamson, Cassandra VanKeulen, &
Lauren VanKeulen, Realtors
The Williamson-VanKeulen Group, Ojai, CA

Tim Hauf, Owner
Tim Hauf Photography
Ventura, CA

Timothy Teague, Owner
Timothy Teague Photography
Ojai, CA

Gordon Seabury, CEO
Toad&Co
Santa Barbara, CA

Jack Dyer, Co-Founder
Topa Topa Brewing Company
Ventura/Santa Barbara, CA

Jeffrey Vance, Proprietor
Vance Construction
Los Angeles, CA

Kristy McKee, CEO
Widgital
Arroyo Grande, CA

Michelle Lopez, CEO
Wild at Heart Ojai
Ojai, CA

ALLEN DEFORREST, COO
Wild Ideas, LLC.
Santa Ynez, CA