

***Have your land-management organization send a support letter for AB 2509!***

Our hearing date for the Assembly Agriculture Committee is April 24<sup>th</sup>, and letters need to be submitted by 5pm on April 17<sup>th</sup> to be counted in the bill analysis.

1. **Prepare a letter** on your organization’s letterhead using the sample language below. Feel free to personalize the text. There are two places highlighted in red for you to fill in details relevant to your organization.
2. **Submit** your letter via the state legislature’s portal at <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>.
3. **Email a copy** to [Marissa.Plante@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Marissa.Plante@asm.ca.gov), the Legislative Assistant in Assembly Member Ash Kalra’s office, and to Cal-IPC Executive Director Doug Johnson at [dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org](mailto:dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org).
4. **Bonus:** If you can, cc [your Assembly representative](#). This is not essential, but it helps educate your rep and build your connection with them. You will need to submit the letter to them via their website.

Thank you!

*[Sample text, please put on your organization’s letterhead, with signature and contact info]*

<<date>>

Honorable Esmerelda Soria, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
California State Assembly  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0027

Dear Assembly Member Soria,

On behalf of <<your organization>>, I want to express strong support for AB-2509. By providing clear definitions of “invasive species” and “integrated pest management” in statute, the bill establishes a firm foundation for ongoing work to protect the state’s environment and economy from invasive species. In our work, we face challenges from invasive species like <<mention very briefly some of your organization’s work that connects you to the issue of invasive species>>.

Invasive species impact water resources, wildfire risk, biodiversity, agricultural production, and recreation for all Californians. Last year’s report from the IPBES documents that invasive species play a key role in 60% of plant and animal extinctions worldwide, and annual costs – now at least \$423 billion – have quadrupled every decade since 1970. The 2022 Global Biodiversity Framework ratified in Montreal (with a large California contingent present, including Natural Resources Secretary Wad Crowfoot), sets a goal for reducing new introductions of invasive species 50% by 2030, and addressing all existing high-priority invasive species problems.

California’s own plans – including 30x30, the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, and the State Wildlife Action Plan – all stress the critical need to address invasive species. It is important that we clearly define “invasive species” in statute, as many other states have done.

Integrated pest management, or IPM, is the universal approach to controlling invasive species. It is simple in concept – use the safest, most effective tools that are feasible for a given situation. It is less simple in practice, and it comes into play in a wide range of settings: managing rodents in cities, managing insects in crops, managing diseases in trees, managing weeds in wildlands, and more. The definition developed by the University of California’s IPM program is widely accepted by a range of stakeholders. That is the definition proposed by this bill. It prioritizes non-chemical methods but allows for pesticide use when necessary.

AB-2509 requires the state’s interagency Invasive Species Council to promote IPM as the appropriate approach to managing invasive species. This is an important step in further establishing the importance of addressing invasive species in California.

Please support the passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

<<your name, title, email address and/or phone number>>

cc: Assembly Member Ash Kalra  
<<your Assembly Member if you are including them>>