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SENATE RESOLUTION

[NUMBER - [SR-F24-003](#)]

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| TITLE | Call to Action for United States Forest Service |
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**WHEREAS**, To [combat the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems](#), and climate change, we must protect our oceans, deserts, tundra, wetlands, and especially our forests;

**WHEREAS**, Old-growth and mature trees and forests are particularly valuable in [providing homes for wildlife, filtering drinking water, and helping us to fight climate change](#);

**WHEREAS**, Across the globe, [forests are home to 80% of amphibian species, 75% of bird species, and 68% of the world's mammal species](#);

**WHEREAS**, Old-growth forests sequester [over 300 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide](#) and logging them would release 40-65% of ecosystem carbon into the atmosphere, thus furthering climate change;

**WHEREAS**, the United States' national forests, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, contain [more than 24.7 million acres of old-growth](#);

**WHEREAS**, [Many of the older trees in these forests are being logged and sold to timber mills](#) because there are no meaningful protections established for mature and old-growth forests and trees in most national forests;

**WHEREAS**, More than [60 million people](#) in the U.S. receive drinking water from national forests;

**WHEREAS**, Cities also use watersheds in these forests to supply their water network, and the removal of these ecosystems and national forests even at a minute level has consequences for the local cities, farms, people, and animals that rely on the resources provided by the forest, such as water;

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous people from the global scale have started initiatives to gain rights back to their own land from federal governments. For example, in Brazil, the [Communities of the Manicoré River](#) have been fighting to sustainably use the Brazilian Amazon forest suffering from deforestation due to businesses' wants. After much advocacy work, the Manicoré community members achieved land regulation and the indefinite collective use of the Brazilian Amazon for their community;

**WHEREAS**, Environmentalists frequently stereotype all Indigenous people to be "[noble people in tune with nature](#)" and fail to realize the Indigenous sovereignty of all tribes, regardless of region. Indigenous people have the knowledge and traditions informing them of how to take care of land, beyond the modern conceptions of environmentalists campaigns. However, they still do not have a "[seat at the table of climate and biodiversity negotiations](#)";

**WHEREAS**, if we are to properly go forward in environmental justice efforts through CALPIRG and GCAP, we must take into account the voices of Indigenous people as well as the effects of climate change on our student populations. This is not limited to only national initiatives such as protecting our old-growth forests, but rather local initiatives that impact us;

**WHEREAS**, The planet's oldest living oak, the 13,000 year old [Jurupa Oak](#), is under threat because of the Jurupa Valley City Council's 3:2 approval of the Rio Vista Specific Plan to build industrial light warehouses surrounding the circumference of this historic native plant;

**WHEREAS**, We must take into account the voices of Indigenous peoples and respond to complaints of policies not being enforced properly, which undermine the rights of Indigenous folks to use their lands and forests, as well as the forests' protection against logging.

Now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That The Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside -

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- (1) *Let it be resolved*, CALPIRG and the Green Campus Action Plan (GCAP) have collaborated to create the Forest Festival program to acquire signatures and testimonials supporting the benefits of forests for our Earth;
  - (2) *Let it be further resolved*, If environmentalists are to make progress in terms of environmental justice, serious considerations for the saving of old-growth forests/plants must be had, especially in local communities such as the Inland Empire's Jurupa Oak;
  - (3) *Let it be further resolved*, ASUCR and GCAP condemn Jurupa Valley City Council's approval of the Rio Vista Specific Plan;
  - (4) *Let it be finally resolved*, ASUCR supports a strong and durable federal policy which ends the logging of old-growth trees, as well as the sale or exchange of old-growth trees to timber mills, and sets the stage for durable protections for mature trees and forests.

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**Naia Pizarro**

*Executive Vice President*

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**Signed Legislation can be found in the ASUCR Office**

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**VOTE COUNT -** *5-0-1*

**SENATE APPROVED ON -** *Fill in by Senate Secretary*

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