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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**JEFF STONE, PHARM.D.**  
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



VICE CHAIR  
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LABOR & INDUSTRIAL  
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NATURAL RESOURCES  
& WATER  
MEMBER  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Requested Veto of AB 1066 (Aguiar-Curry)

Dear Governor Brown:

I would like to respectfully request that you veto AB 1066 (Aguiar-Curry) that requires the payment of prevailing wage for tree removal from demolition or construction projects deemed to be public works.

Currently, cities and counties are not required to pay prevailing union wages for tree removal services, and this saves a significant amount of taxpayer dollars. Because many local jurisdictions utilize contract labor to perform routine tree removal as a part of maintenance requirements, they are able to solicit and accept bids from the lowest cost competent contractor.

Requiring prevailing wages for tree removal will only drive up the cost to local taxpayers without achieving any additional benefit. It seems that a better use of taxpayer money would be to hire more public safety officers or essential personnel instead of spending diminishing revenue on tree landscape employees.

Finally, it is not very often when the League of California Cities joins up with the Southern California Contractors Association to oppose an individual piece of legislation. But given this needless expansion of prevailing wage law, it makes perfect sense that both oppose AB 1066.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone".

Jeff Stone  
State Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District