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THIRD READING

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Bill No: SR 119  
Author: Caballero (D)  
Amended: 6/25/26  
Vote: Majority

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**SUBJECT:** Paleontology

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This resolution celebrates the unique paleontological heritage of California, including its diverse fossil sites, institutions, and ancient ecosystems that these institutions have uncovered.

**ANALYSIS:**

*Senate Floor Amendments of 6/25/26 make changes to this resolutions findings.*

This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) According to the University of California Museum of Paleontology internet website, paleontology includes the study of fossils and what they tell us about the past, ecology, and evolution, incorporating knowledge from biology, geology, ecology, anthropology, archaeology, and computer science.
- 2) The science of paleontology plays a critical role in predicting future climate change, understanding the extent to which humans have impacted biodiversity, contextualizing modern environmental challenges, and engaging students in science; engaging students and the public as a gateway to science, serving as an incubator for an interdisciplinary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce, and creating a critical record of life's past and California's natural history.
- 3) California dinosaur fossils from that time include the fragments of a meat-eating theropod in the City of Rocklin and the state dinosaur, *Augustynolophus morrisoni*, an approximately three-ton "duck-billed" hadrosaur that ate plants and was found in the County of Fresno.

- 4) Marine reptiles hunted across California's Cretaceous seaways in areas like the County of Fresno's Moreno Formation, which includes diverse, long-necked elasmosaurids like Morenosaurus that resemble the Loch Ness Monster, while the County of Shasta preserved the large ichthyosaur known as Shastasaurus from the Late Triassic period.
- 5) California is also rich in fauna from many other times periods and localities, including the marine mammals of the Pliocene Central Coast and the rugose corals of the Devonian Death Valley region.
- 6) Sciences like paleontology face serious challenges, including the closure of university programs and an unprecedented billions in science funding cuts from the federal government.

This resolution recognizes the importance of paleontology as a critical record of life's past, a source of valuable scientific knowledge on ecology, evolution, and our modern environmental challenges, a gateway to science for the public.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 6/22/26)

None received

Prepared by: Destiny Bustos / SFA / (916) 651-4171  
6/26/26 9:38:01

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