



November 28, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Two-Year Price Gouging Protection Post-Wildfire

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to respectfully request an extension of price gouging protections for residents displaced in California's major 2017 and 2018 wildfires from one year to two years following the date of the fires. This extension will provide sufficient relief while the victims of the fires continue working to rebuild their homes and communities.

RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. Four RCRC member counties - Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma - recently sent you a request urging a one-year extension of the price gouging provisions in Executive Order B-51-18 and Executive Order B-43-17, which were issued earlier this year. The communities ravaged by the 2017 wildfires are still struggling to recover, as rental properties remain scarce and displaced residents attempt to maintain long-term housing solutions while their homes are being rebuilt. In some areas, such as Sonoma County, as low as one percent of the destroyed homes have been rebuilt more than a year after the fires, and recent devastating wildfire events in neighboring counties have created a greater need for immediate short-term housing and labor.

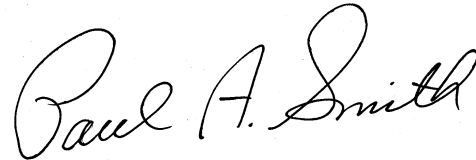
RCRC would also request the same extension of price gouging provisions in Executive Order B-53-18 for displaced residents of the Carr Fire (Shasta County) and the Mendocino Complex Fire (Mendocino County and Lake County), as well as the price gouging provisions in Executive Order B-57-18 for victims of the Camp Fire (Butte County) and the Woolsey Fire (Los Angeles County and Ventura County). The proposed extension would give victims a two-year window of relief from unethical price gouging and provide residents the ability to remain close to their jobs and communities during the recovery and rebuilding process.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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RCRC appreciates your swift actions on these devastating fires, including your tireless efforts to secure federal disaster funds and implementation of immediate recovery efforts. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAUL A. SMITH
Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Office of Emergency Services
Members of the Butte County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Lake County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Shari McCracken, Chief Administrative Officer, Butte County
Carol J. Huchingson, County Administrative Officer, Lake County
Carmel J. Angelo, Chief Executive Officer, Mendocino County
Minh C. Tran, Chief Executive Officer, Napa County
Larry Lees, County Administrative Officer, Shasta County
Sheryl Bratton, County Administrator, Sonoma County