



February 11, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of Chief Michael J. Richwine as State Fire Marshal of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Chief Michael J. Richwine as the State Fire Marshal of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

During his time at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Chief Richwine has been a valuable partner to rural counties as new planning and development challenges have surfaced during the state's increasingly intense wildfire seasons. Chief Richwine has always made himself and his staff available to RCRC and its member counties to work through issues unique to rural communities and has an abundance of knowledge and experience which allows him to understand that what may work in an urban setting is not necessarily feasible for a small rural county. We expect our positive and productive relationship with Chief Richwine to continue during his tenure as State Fire Marshal, and expect his expertise to continue to be an asset to the OSFM as California navigates its fire planning and wildfire prevention goals.

RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Chief Richwine. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with him into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Sincerely,

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

STACY CORLESS
Member, Mono County Board of Supervisors
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
Chief Michael J. Richwine, State Fire Marshal, California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection