



July 8, 2019

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 182 – SUPPORT
As Amended July 3, 2019**

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Senate Bill 182, which establishes wildfire reduction standards and planning requirements for new housing developments in fire prone areas of the state. 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.

Recent wildfires in California have been increasingly catastrophic, with the most destructive and deadly wildfires outpacing the previous year's statistics. Last year, the Mendocino Complex fire burned 460,000 acres and destroyed 1,600 structures, followed by the Camp Fire in Butte County that destroyed over 18,000 structures and killed 85 individuals. The increased loss of life and structural damage has intensified the focus on communities existing in Very High Fire Risk Areas (VHFRA) and how communities are planned and development in these regions of that state.

SB 182 is a comprehensive measure that recognizes the continued need to build in the VHFRA, and therefore, the obligation of the state and local governments to ensure new communities are planned and built to best mitigate for uncontrollable fire. Specifically, SB 182 prohibits local governments from approving permits for housing developments unless the project is in compliance with the wildfire risk reduction standards as outlined in the bill. SB 182 also requires increased wildfire risk mitigation planning by local governments through updated local safety and land use elements of that jurisdiction's general plan. Additionally, in order to reduce development pressures in the VHFRA through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process, SB 182 requires a lower proportion of state housing allocation to jurisdictions that meet specified conditions.

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The wildfire risk reduction standards in SB 182 are expansive; however, RCRC believes you have balanced the additional planning burdens on local governments with a sensible implementation timeline. And, though we are supportive of SB 182, RCRC would like to see funding included to offset the increased costs of the new planning mandates.

We appreciate the collaborative process of crafting SB 182 that has involved many stakeholders, including RCRC. SB 182 is a bold, yet reasonable solution to allowing much-needed housing production to continue in the most fire prone areas of the state in a manner that aids future developments withstand devastating wildfires.

If you should have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's position to SB 182, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



TRACY RHINE
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Local Government Committee
Angela Mapp, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus