February 25, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Kiley  
Member, California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:  Assembly Bill 2166 – SUPPORT  
As Introduced February 11, 2020

Dear Assembly Member Kiley:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 2166, relating to personal state tax credit for fire insurance premiums. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

As a result of recent wildfires, homeowners insurance is becoming more difficult to find and/or afford, and the availability of homeowners insurance continues to decline for those in wildfire-prone areas. While many homeowners in wildfire-prone areas have begun hardening and protecting their homes against wildfires, many homeowners do not or cannot adequately maintain their defensible space and implement upgrades to their homes because they are financially unable to do so, even after they are inspected by the state/local enforcement officials and urged to reach compliance with state mandates.

AB 2166 would allow a tax credit to reflect the premium increases that principle homeowners have witnessed during/after 2016. This tax credit would be provided in tax years between January 2020 and before January 1, 2026. RCRC believes that by providing tax credits to qualified property owners/taxpayers, it could alleviate some of the financial difficulties they experience simply for residing in wildfire-risk areas. As such, AB 2166 is a much-needed effort that would relieve Californians impacted by the homeowners insurance crisis.
If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at psmith@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

STACI HEATON
Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee
Consultant, Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee
Julia King, Assembly Republican Caucus