

FLOOR ALERT

Date May 21st, 2019

To: Members, California State Assembly

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 1516 (Friedman) Fire Prevention: Defensible Space and Fuels Reduction Management

PIFC Position: Support



STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE

PROGRESSIVE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

NAMIC

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC) is a statewide trade association that represents five of the nation's largest property and casualty insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, and Nationwide as well as associate member NAMIC) who write personal lines auto and home insurance in California.

PIFC is pleased to support AB 1516, a measure that will establish requirements for noncombustible zones for homes in high fire hazard areas and authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to have access to important information on how locals comply with defensible space requirements in very high fire hazard severity zones. The bill also increases awareness of proper vegetation management by prohibiting the planting of incompatible trees under powerlines and by authorizing CAL FIRE to provide assistance to local governments.

PIFC has long supported legislation to develop model defensible space programs to promote positive action by homeowners, contractors and local government. A defensible space area around a building in which vegetation, debris, and other types of combustible fuels have been treated, cleared, or reduced can help slow the spread of fire to and from the structure. It is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect a structure from a wildfire and can often be created by the property owner.

AB 1516 will encourage a greater understanding of California's requirements for defensible space around structures, which is beneficial for all of our communities. For this reason, PIFC supports AB 1516. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Author
Suzanne Sutton, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Michael Martinez, Senior Deputy Commissioner and Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance