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May 14, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2551 (Wood) Joint prescribed burning operations – SUPPORT

The above organizations are pleased to support your AB 2551 which requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to establish, implement, and administer the Forest and Wildland Health Improvement and Fire Prevention Program (Program). The bill also authorizes CAL FIRE to enter into the cooperative management of joint prescribed burning operations.

The 2017 wildfires were the largest and most destructive in California’s history. Since then, the insurance industry has been working diligently to help customers rebuild their homes, replace their personal property, and restore their lives. With the increase in these destructive wildfires now considered the “new normal,” we must also focus on the long-term.

As the state looks forward, it is critical that we move towards long-term, comprehensive solutions that can reduce future risk and increase resilience for the next time disaster strikes. Improved forest management, increased home and community mitigation efforts, and enhanced emergency response systems are all key components to ensuring California is better prepared to address and to recover from a disaster.

For this reason, we support AB 2551 as a positive step towards managing our forests to help with fire prevention.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kara Cross, Personal Insurance Federation of California ([916-442-6646](tel:916-442-6646)/kcross@pifc.org); Armand Feliciano, Property and Casualty Insurers Association of America ([916-440-1117](tel:916-440-1117)/armand.feliciano@pciaa.net); Katherine Pettibone, American Insurance Association ([916-873-3677](tel:916-873-3677)/kpettibone@aiadc.org); Shari McHugh, Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies ([916-930-1993](tel:916-930-1993)/smchugh@mchughgr.com); or Christian Rataj, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies ([303-907-0587](tel:303-907-0587)/crataj@namic.org).

cc Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
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