

Date: May 19, 2009

To: Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: California Fire Safe Council
California Forestry Association
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Regional Council of Rural Counties
The Wilderness Society

Re: AB 1300 (Fletcher) – Fire protection: vegetation management
SUPPORT

The above organizations support AB 1300 (Fletcher) which is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on **Wednesday, May 20th**.

This bill would authorize the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to create and implement a fuels reduction grant program that would provide competitive grants or other incentives to eligible communities located in the wildland-urban interface or very high fire risk severity zone. The purpose of this bill is to encourage communities to pursue fire prevention and mitigation efforts.

We believe it is important to approach fire prevention on a regional basis, as well as at the individual homeowner level. A regional approach to fire prevention is necessary because wildfires are becoming hotter, larger, and more dangerous, and, as a result, more difficult to suppress.

This grant program would help reduce the risk of wildfires in high risk communities by encouraging the creation of defensible space around homes, as well as undertaking fuels reduction efforts, around entire communities and other fuels management-type mitigation efforts.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully ask for your “aye” vote when this bill comes before you in committee. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact any of the coalition members listed above.

cc: Honorable Nathan Fletcher
Dan Chia, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Caucus
Mike Proso, Legislative Secretary for the Governor
Manolo Platin, Office of the Insurance Advisor