

FLOOR ALERT

Date May 21st, 2019

To: Members, California State Senate

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

Re: SB 190 (Dodd) Fire Safety: Building Standards

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 insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, and Nationwide as well as associate member NAMIC) who write personal line auto and home insurance in California.

PIFC is pleased to support SB 190, a measure that will create a model defensible space program for California. The statewide program will increase the level of awareness and compliance with the State's defensible space requirements. In addition, the development of the SB 190 model defensible space program will benefit from the input and expertise of representatives from local, state, and federal fire services, local government, building officials, the building industry, utility companies, insurers, insurance research organizations, and the environmental community.

PIFC has long supported legislation to develop model defensible space programs and improved fire safety building standards in order to promote positive action by building owners, contractors and local government. It is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect a building from a wildfire and can often be created by the property owner.

As the state looks forward after the 2017 and 2018 wildfires, 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 vegetation 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.

SB 190 will help 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 SB 190 and encourages your "aye" vote**. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Bill Dodd, Author
Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Michael Martinez, Senior Deputy Commissioner and Legislative Director, California Department of Insurance