

Date April 12th, 2019

To: The Honorable Henry Stern, Chair
The Honorable Brian Jones, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

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

Re: **SB 515 (Caballero)** *California Renewable Portfolio Standard Program: Bioenergy Renewable*

Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Hearing, April 23rd, 2019

PIFC Position: Support

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 member companies understand that forests are one of the primary foundations for California's rich biodiversity. They are the source of most of California's water, play an important role in regulating our climate, and are a recreational destination for Californians and people around the world. However, overgrown forests increase California's risk for catastrophic wildfires that can result in serious statewide consequences, including threats to life, property and the forests themselves.

While most of the natural communities of plants and animals have adapted to natural fire conditions, these natural communities are now at risk from catastrophic wildfire primarily due to the hazardous fuel conditions. Also at risk are the communities that interface with these wildlands, including those within wildland-urban interface (WUI) and rural areas. Strategic management and control of wildland vegetation is essential to the safety, health, recreational, and economic wellbeing of California's citizens.

PIFC supports policies that reduce fire intensity through vegetation management, which can substantially aid in wildland fire containment and control, while creating safety zones for fire fighter and citizen safety.

PIFC also supports efforts to reduce fire risk, restore already damaged areas, and to reduce impacts in local communities and on vulnerable populations.

Towards that end, PIFC is pleased to support SB 515 (Caballero) to better assess wildfire risk by using CalFire's Fire Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) map and help ensure that forest waste does not end up as fuel for the next fire by making sure existing biomass facilities continue to remove high hazard material and remain operational for an additional five years.

If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.



cc: Senator Anna Caballero, Author
Bill Craven, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Rachel Wagener, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor