

**American Insurance Association
Association of California Insurance Companies
California Fire Safe Councils
California Forestry Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Association of Realtors®
California Licensed Foresters Association
Forest Landowners of California
Klamath Alliance for Resource & Environment
Lumber Association of California and Nevada
Personal Insurance Federation of California
Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment
Chemco**

April 17, 2007

Senator Darrell Steinberg
Room 4034
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Senator Steinberg:

The above listed organizations are pleased to support SB 838 (Cogdill) as amended April 16th, as this legislation seeks to make fire prevention a priority in California. SB 838 would enhance California's fire prevention efforts by supporting the activities and educational efforts of the California Fire Safe Councils and the California Department of Forestry.

As recent news accounts have demonstrated, California's dry warm climate combined with our growing population increasingly assures that wildfires will continue to be a significant threat to the state's environmental health and public safety. Currently, federal funds have been the primary source of revenue for prevention efforts in California. Unfortunately, these funds are woefully inadequate and fail to meet the state's increasing needs for fire prevention. As we begin another fire season it is critical that California invest in fire prevention efforts at the state level to provide a measure of protection for our citizens.

SB 838 provides the first step in establishing a program to address the need to invest in fire prevention by establishing a cost-share community based wildfire threat reduction and prevention program, utilizing the expertise of the California Fire Safe Councils and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

It is often stated that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" as we prepare for another fire season in California, we ask for your support of fire SB 838.

CC: Members Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee