



Personal Insurance Federation of California

California's Personal Lines Trade Association

REPRESENTING THE LEADING AUTOMOBILE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURERS

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Date: April 15, 2003

To: Honorable Jerome Horton, Chair
Members, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee

From: Dan C. Dunmoyer, President
G. Diane Colborn, Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Michael A. Gunning, Senior Legislative Advocate
E. Jerry Davies, Director of Communications

Re: AB 1216 (Vargas): Model Ordinance for Fire Safety
Assembly Governmental Organization Committee: April 21, 2003
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC), representing insurance companies that write over 40% of the homeowners insurance policies sold in California, **supports AB 1216** by Assembly member Juan Vargas.

Life and property fire safety and fire loss mitigation in California's high fire areas are primary concerns of PIFC member companies because the incidence of fires in high fire severity zones is increasing due to homes being built at a record pace in and near wildland areas. AB 1216 would require the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, to adopt a model ordinance to provide for comprehensive space and structure defensibility from exterior fire penetration, including within very high fire severity zones.

This bill will give the State Fire Marshal the statutory authority to expand fire safety building standards in areas with high fire risk to include structural components such as: roofs, exterior walls, attic eave vents, windows, and structure projections including porches, decks, balconies and eaves.

- AB 1216 will make new homes more resistant to both internal and external fires.
- AB 1216 may increase the availability of fire insurance by focusing the new standards on those areas where fire risk is greatest.
- AB 1216 will save lives, minimize property loss, protect the environment and potentially reduce costs to the insurance industry.
- AB 1216 will promote fire fighter safety.
- AB 1216 ensures that the state will have input on how homes are built in high fire risk areas.
- AB 1216 is a common sense measure that is based on years of prior legislation, regulation, and scientific research.

For the reasons stated above, the Personal Insurance Federation of California **supports AB 1216**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the position taken in this letter, please contact Jerry Davies at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Honorable Juan Vargas, Author
Ann Richardson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Mark Farouk, Legislative Assistant, Assembly Governmental Organization Committee
Jim Anderson, Legislative Assistant, Assemblyman Juan Vargas's Office
Michael Peterson, Assembly Republican Caucus
John Tennant, State Fire Marshal
Louis Blumberg, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection