



# Personal Insurance Federation of California

California's Personal Lines Trade Association

REPRESENTING THE LEADING AUTOMOBILE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURERS

State Farm • Farmers • 21st Century Insurance Group • SAFECO • Progressive

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Date: June 13, 2003

To: Honorable Denise Moreno Ducheny, Chair  
Members, Senate Housing and Community Development Committee

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

Re: AB 1216 (Vargas): Model Ordinance for Fire Safety  
Senate Housing and Community Development: June 16, 2003  
**PIFIC Position: Support**

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFIC), 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 PIFIC 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, Office of the Governor  
Richard Figueroa, Office of the Governor  
Mark Stivers, Consultant, Senate Housing Community Development Committee  
Jim Anderson, Legislative Assistant, Assemblyman Juan Vargas's Office  
Alex Alanis, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
John Tennant, State Fire Marshal  
Louis Blumberg, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection