



# 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

## STAFF

Dan Dunmoyer  
*President*

Rex D. Frazier  
*Vice President &  
General Counsel*

Michael Gunning  
*Senior Legislative Advocate*

Michael Paiva  
*Senior Legislative Advocate*

Jerry Davies  
*Director of Communications*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 5, 2005

**TO:** The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, Chair  
Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

**FROM:** Dan C. Dunmoyer, President  
Rex Frazier, Vice President and General Counsel  
Michael A. Gunning, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Michael A. Paiva, Senior Legislative Advocate  
E. Jerry Davies, Director of Communications

**Re: SB 1084 (Kehoe), Forest Practices**  
**Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee Hearing: April 12, 2005**  
**PIFC Position: Support**

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The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC), representing insurers who write 50% of all homeowners' insurance sold in California, **supports SB 1084** for the following reasons.

Under existing law, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is required to classify all lands within the state to determine areas in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the state.

Senate Bill 1084 would require the State Fire Marshal to establish a certification program for a private individual to be trained as a fire safe inspector, fire safe plan reviewer, or fire safe plan specialist.

Fire safety inspectors would be a valuable tool to help recognize fire safety hazards through inspections before fires strike and thus help to mitigate loss of life and property during a fire. The certified experts would work with local homeowners, local fire and police officials, local government building and planning officials, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Department of Forestry, the State Fire Marshal and fire fighters to maximize fire safety procedures in every community in California prone to wildfires.

Due to the growth of California's population in and around wildland interface fire areas, CDF predicts that because of the heavy rains this year and the rapid growth of brush in high fire risk areas following the storms, California could experience another extreme fire season. This also indicates the need of certified fire residential safety inspectors.

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For these reasons, **PIFC urges an aye vote on SB 1084** when it is heard in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on April 12, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Davies at (916) 442-6646 or via email at [jdavies@pifc.org](mailto:jdavies@pifc.org).

cc: Senator Christine Kehoe  
Edi Thompson, Senate Republican Caucus  
Bill Craven, Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Richard Costigan, Legislative Secretary to the Governor  
Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Legislative Secretary to the Governor  
Scott Reid, Office of the Insurance Advisor

10. SB1084-S-NatRes-4-12-05