



Personal Insurance Federation of California

California's Personal Lines Trade Association

REPRESENTING THE LEADING AUTOMOBILE AND HOMEOWNERS INSURERS

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MEMORANDUM

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Director of Communications

DATE: May 13, 2005

TO: The Honorable Carole Migden, Chair
Members, Senate Appropriations 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 Appropriations Committee – May 16, 2005
PIFC Position: Support**

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.

For these reasons, **PIFC urges an aye vote on SB 1084** when it is heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 16, 2005. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Davies at (916) 442-6646 or via email at jdavies@pifc.org.

cc: Senator Christine Kehoe, Author
Therese Tran, Senate Republican Caucus
Miriam Ingenito, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Legislative Secretary to the Governor
Scott Reid, Office of the Insurance Advisor

10. SB1084-S-APPR