



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



April 14, 2025

The Honorable Susan Rubio
Chair, Senate Insurance Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 616: Community Hardening Commission: Wildfire Mitigation Program: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Rubio,

We, the undersigned supervisors representing the Counties of Lake, Mariposa, Napa, and Nevada write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 616. This pivotal legislation proposes the establishment of the Community Hardening Commission dedicated to enhancing wildfire mitigation efforts across California; all with the goal of creating more resilient communities and encouraging insurers to write policies in high wildfire risk areas of the state.

Communities like ours have leveraged millions of dollars over recent years to protect ourselves against the risks of catastrophic wildfires. We have undertaken home hardening efforts, defensible space efforts, and fuels mitigation work along our vital roadways. Despite these efforts, our constituents continue to face spiking renewal premiums, or even worse, non-renewal by the insurance providers.

Under SB 616, the creation of a Community Hardening Commission advised by a stakeholder advisory council, would enable a collaborative approach to ultimately assess the home and community hardening needs of at-risk communities statewide and then enable the state and local governments to assist those communities with their fire-hardening needs. We would also implore that this bill specifically provide a seat at the table for a rural county representative to ensure our most vulnerable voices in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are heard.

By aligning policies across state agencies and stakeholders, streamlining home hardening initiatives, and enhancing data-sharing on wildfire risks, SB 616 will protect homes, businesses, and public safety while making communities more insurable.

For these reasons, we strongly supports SB 616 and urge its swift passage. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and look forward to working together to bolster wildfire mitigation efforts statewide.

Sincerely,

Eddie Crandell
Supervisor, District 3, Lake County

Anne Cottrell
Supervisor, District 3, Napa County

Rosemarie Smallcombe
Supervisor, District 1, Mariposa County

Heidi Hall
Supervisor, District 1, Nevada County

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