



# County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

Luis A. Alejo, District 1  
Glenn Church, District 2  
Chris M. Lopez, Chair, District 3  
Wendy Root Askew, Vice Chair, District 4  
Kate Daniels, District 5

Clerk of the Board  
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901  
831 755 5066  
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Damon Connolly  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk. – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Connolly,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of your measure AB 1. As you know, wildfire risk is an undisputed growing threat in California and has negatively impacted the availability and cost of home and commercial property insurance policies in California.

AB 1 would require The California Department of Insurance (CDI) to consider updating its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs. Additionally, it would require the department to consult with specified agencies to identify additional building hardening measures. It incentivizes homeowners and communities to invest in demonstrably cost-effective community-wide and property-level wildfire mitigation measures and incentivizes insurers to provide coverage for homes and businesses in California by requiring CDI to periodically review and update its Safer from Wildfires regulations to include additional community-wide wildfire mitigation programs or property-level wildfire mitigation measures.

With the increased severity and frequency of wildfires in California, community wildfire planning is increasingly important to help prepare for and adapt to wildfires. The County of Monterey works hard to ensure its community is prepared and has necessary emergency plans in place, as evidenced by its Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Community Resilience Plan. These plans include action items residents can use to prepare and to protect their families, property, and critical infrastructures, as well as recover quickly from emergencies.

The County supports AB 1 and its requirement that CDI periodically review and update its Safer from Wildfires regulations. Encouraging homeowners and communities to invest in wildfire mitigation would inevitably reduce insurers' claims liability. Community wildfire planning is increasingly important not only to help prepare for and adapt to wildfire but also to assist with ensuring that property insurance continues to be available to all state residents. Therefore, the County of Monterey supports AB 1.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

**Chris M. Lopez, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors



WWW.CO.MONTEREY.CA.US

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)