



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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March XX, 2026

The Honorable Adam Schiff
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 1323, The Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act

Dear Senator Schiff:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for S. 1323, The Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act. The County of Monterey is on the front lines of California's escalating environmental changes and challenges. In recent years, the County has faced increasingly destructive wildfire and flooding seasons which threaten homes, critical infrastructure, and lives. These hazards place enormous strain on homeowners, local governments, and emergency response systems.

For many residents, the financial burden of hardening their homes against wildfire or flood damage can be overwhelming. Investments in defensible space, fire-resistant materials, elevation measures, drainage improvements, and other resilience strategies are proven to reduce losses. However, with tight budgets, too many households are forced to delay or forgo these protective measures.

The FIREWALL Act represents a practical and forward-looking response to these realities. By facilitating increased resilience, supporting environmental weatherization, and reducing liability barriers, this legislation empowers homeowners to take proactive steps to safeguard their properties. In doing so, it strengthens entire neighborhoods and reduces the long-term costs borne by taxpayers for disaster response and recovery. From the County's perspective, this prevention is more effective and less costly than rebuilding after catastrophe. Moreover, proactive mitigation measures can help stabilize insurance markets that have become increasingly volatile in high-risk areas, offering greater security to our residents.

We appreciate your leadership on these important issues and thank you for your commitment to strengthening community resilience and for considering the real-world challenges faced by counties across central California. We are proud to offer our support for S. 1323 the FIREWALL Act.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, Senator for California
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District



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