



August 30, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Utility Wildfire Liability

Dear President pro Tempore Limón and Speaker Rivas, and Members of the California Legislature,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing local governments, wildfire survivors, insurers, and community stakeholders across California, we write to **express our deep gratitude to the Legislature for standing up for survivors and communities by rejecting proposals that shift liability for utility-caused wildfires away from investor-owned utilities and their shareholders.**

California has experienced some of the most destructive and deadly wildfires in global history as a result of utility equipment failures – in fact, seven of the 20 mostly costly wildfires globally have occurred in California, caused by utility equipment. We applaud the Legislature for:

1. Rejecting any proposal that shifts utility-caused wildfire liability onto insurance policyholders, driving higher insurance costs and threatening the availability of coverage for consumers.
2. Protecting wildfire survivors' rights to full compensation and recovery.

3. Protecting cities, counties, special districts, and taxpayers from being forced to absorb the costs of utility-caused disasters.
4. Recognizing the need to develop long-term strategies paired with future investments in wildfire prevention, mitigation, resilience, and community safety rather than corporate bailouts.
5. Advancing policies that hold utilities accountable for maintaining safe systems and reducing wildfire risk.

Our organizations recognize that Californians every day are struggling with affordability challenges. Any policy that would have transferred additional cost-burdens onto taxpayers from utility-caused wildfire could have been devastating to household budgets.

As wildfire-related discussions continue in future years with the Legislature and Administration, we look forward to serving as partners in the development of these critical policies to promote utility safety, protect wildfire survivors and communities, and invest in meaningful wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts.

Sincerely,

American Property Casualty Insurance Association – Denni Ritter, denneile.ritter@apci.org

California State Association of Counties -- Jordan Wells, jwells@counties.org

Consumer Attorneys of California – Nancy Peverini, nancyp@caoc.org

League of California Cities – Melissa Sparks-Kranz, msparkskranz@calcities.org

Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance Companies – Shari McHugh, smchugh@mchughgr.com

Personal Insurance Federation of California – Seren Taylor, staylor@pifc.org

Rural County Representatives of California – John Kennedy, jkennedy@rcrcnet.org

CC: Members of the California Legislature