



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Request for Signature on Assembly Bill 38

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on Assembly Bill 38 related to fire safety. In 2018, new records were set in California for the largest, most destructive, and deadliest wildfires. In the face of megafires, we have a responsibility to invest in and create wildfire resilient communities.

AB 38 is supported by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and will be an important tool in our toolbox as we work with our partners to implement the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. These plans make recommendations for actions that will help our communities adapt to living in a wildfire environment and reduce the number of homes that are vulnerable to damage and loss from wildfire. AB 38 will help local property owners, communities, and government agencies act on those recommendations.

AB 38 will provide resources to communities located in high and very high fire hazard severity zones through the administration of a comprehensive wildfire mitigation program. Under this program, building retrofits and structure hardening measures as well as defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification activities, eligible for financial assistance, will be identified. The program will help increase the number of structures that meet current defensible space standards and wildland urban interface building codes which will, in turn, reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of wildfire.

In addition, AB 38 requires specific documentation, agreements, disclosures and education associated with the sale of real property related to fire hardening improvements and compliance with vegetation management standards. This will help protect and inform the consumer and increase general awareness of best practices.

We believe the tools provided through AB 38 will help communities and citizens prepare for wildfire and mitigate hazards that they would not otherwise have the means or knowledge to address. For these reasons the County of Humboldt urges your signature on AB 38.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn
Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors