



SONOMA COUNTY
Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

The Honorable Susan Rubio
Chair, Senate Committee on Insurance
1021 O Street, Room 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.
Notice of SUPPORT (As Introduced December 2, 2024)

Dear Senator Rubio,

On behalf of the Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association I am pleased to **support** AB 1 (Connolly), which would require the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to consider whether to update the Safer from Wildfire regulations to include home hardening in the regulations on or before January 1, 2030.

California has the highest wildfire risk in the United States, and the cities in Sonoma county are well aware of living with fire danger. In recent years, the state has experienced a growing number of highly destructive wildfires due to climate change and over a century of logging and fire suppression. The devastating impacts of these wildfires have led to a state-wide insurance crisis, characterized by insurance price hikes, coverage withdrawals, and instability.

Although California is making unprecedented investments in wildfire resilience, and local governments and homeowners are investing in home hardening and maintaining defensible space, the current proposed regulations by CDI only briefly mention home hardening and do not incorporate the wildfire risk reduction benefits of these activities in relation to rates. The failure to account for the risk reduction benefits of these activities contributes to non-renewals of insurance and insurers' decisions not to write new insurance for homes facing wildfire risk. At the same time, homeowners are denied the benefits associated with the investments that have been made in hazardous fuel reduction, home hardening, and defensible space.

AB 1 would help to address the insurance crisis by improving the availability of insurance coverage for Californians.

For these reasons, Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association **support AB 1 (Connolly)**. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (707) 824-2253.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill McLewis", is positioned above a horizontal blue line.

[Jill McLewis \(Jun 16, 2025 21:26 PDT\)](#)

Jill McLewis

Chair, Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association Legislative
Committee

Vice Mayor, City of Sebastopol

Cc:

Senator Mike McGuire

Senator Christopher Cabaldon

Assemblymember Damon Connolly

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

Assemblymember Chris Rogers

League of California Cities

AB 1 - Support

Final Audit Report

2025-06-17

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