



MEGAFIRE ACTION

STATEMENTS: Megafire Action, California Lawmakers, Stanford Research Scholar on SB 326 Passing Assembly Appropriations Committee

SACRAMENTO – Today, Megafire Action, Senators Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles) and Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park), and Stanford research scholar Michael Wara released the following statement in response to the State Assembly Appropriations Committee’s passage of SB 326—which prioritizes proactive preparation to reduce wildfire risk by using cutting edge technology to assess risk, prioritize treatments and track progress in real time.

*“By advancing SB 326 out of committee, California has taken a major step toward leading the nation with real, lasting solutions to the wildfire crisis,” said **Eric Horne, Megafire Action’s California Director**. “SB 326 will protect our most vulnerable communities, safeguard housing stability, and put our state on a path to long-term resilience. We applaud Senators Josh Becker, John Laird, and Henry Stern as well as Assemblymember Buffy Wicks for their tireless leadership and look forward to moving this bill to Governor Newsom’s desk.”*

*“California can’t afford to keep fighting fires only after they start. We have to lean on science-driven investments to save lives and save money,” said **Senator Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles), coauthor of SB 326**. “SB 326 is about shifting to prevention and prioritizing people and communities before disaster strikes, while helping stabilize spiking insurance rates that reflect rising climate risks.”*

*“SB 326 is about making sure every dollar California spends to reduce wildfire risk actually reduces wildfire risk,” said **Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park), coauthor of SB 326**. “Right now, utilities, state agencies, and the federal government are making major investments—but we don’t have a coordinated, data-driven view of what’s working and what isn’t. This bill changes that by providing the structure needed to ensure these funds are spent effectively and cost-efficiently.”*

*“SB326 will create a first of its kind statewide planning process for reducing the risk of fires like the LA wildfires and jumpstart critical wildfire preparedness steps that California needs to take,” said **Michael Wara, Director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program and senior research scholar at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment**.*

Yesterday, The Sacramento Bee [published an opinion piece](#) in support of SB 326 from Matt Weiner, founder and CEO of Megafire Action. Weiner argued “The return on investment is clear: focusing mitigation on the highest-risk places saves far more in damages than it costs up front. [One wildfire analytics firm found that \\$9 million in targeted investments](#) in defensible space and

fuel breaks could have prevented the billions in losses from the Eaton Fire. SB 326 will help California make those investments and put our state on the path toward long term resilience.”

###