



September 15, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 326 (Becker) Wildfire safety: fire protection building standards: defensible space requirements: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

Megafire Action is writing in strong support of SB 326, a bill that builds on California's national leadership in wildfire resilience. Megafire Action is a non-profit organization committed to ending the megafire crisis through a holistic approach to land management, wildfire response, and community resilience. California faces the greatest wildfire risk in the country, but our state is defined by solutions: the nation's most capable firefighting force and a track record of pioneering, results-driven strategies that protect communities. SB 326 continues that leadership, harnessing homegrown technology and clear accountability so we can reduce risk faster, spend smarter, and demonstrate measurable progress. We respectfully request your signature on this bill.

SB 326 is a cornerstone of the Senate's "Golden State Commitment" wildfire legislative package, which strengthens your administration's results-driven approach. Just as California has [tied homelessness funding](#) to demonstrated reductions in unhoused populations, SB 326 brings that same accountability to wildfire resilience. The bill ensures that state dollars go to communities using the most effective protections, particularly "Zone 0" ember-resistant defensible space around homes, which [insurers and scientists agree](#) is critical in reducing

wildfire risk. Communities are not left to implement this alone; SB 326 lays out a framework for future funding to support inspections, homeowner engagement, and local enforcement capacity.

The law also equips CAL FIRE and the State Fire Marshal with the most advanced risk assessment tools available. It calls for the creation of a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework, a statewide Risk Baseline and Forecast, and annual reports that show how risk changes as projects are completed and investments are made. *California will be the first state* to measure wildfire risk in real time and show which strategies are actually working. SB 326 builds on the pioneering work by CAL FIRE and the Governor's California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force by giving the department sharper, more dynamic tools to plan, execute, and demonstrate progress.

Thankfully, California does not need to start from scratch to meet these requirements. CAL FIRE is already leveraging Silicon Valley to integrate satellite data, fuels models, infrastructure overlays, and AI to identify the highest-return treatment areas, and then continuously update maps as projects are completed. This creates a *virtuous cycle of risk reduction*: risk goes down, the maps show it, and communities, insurers, and state agencies can see the benefits immediately and invest in further risk reduction.

As the anniversaries of the Palisades and Eaton fires approach, SB 326 gives your administration and CAL FIRE the chance to show real, transformative progress—demonstrating that California is learning from tragedy and building a system to prevent it from happening again. The bill validates CAL FIRE's leadership, empowers local governments, helps stabilize insurance markets, and proves to Californians that the state is not just spending more, it is delivering more. We respectfully request your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. W. R.", is written below the word "Sincerely,".



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cc: Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor
Newsom
Rhys Williams, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor
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