



CONGRESS OF CALIFORNIA SENIORS

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August 22, 2019

The Honorable Senator Ben Hueso, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 235 (Mayes/Bonta/Irwin) – Wildfire victims/Energy affordability – SUPPORT as Proposed to be Amended

Dear Chairman Hueso,

The Congress of California Seniors is pleased to support AB 235 (Mayes/Bonta/Irwin) as proposed to be amended, which strikes a critical balance between compensating the victims of past wildfires with keeping energy affordable for millions of Californians.

The issuance of Wildfire Victim Recovery Bonds (WVRB) through the passage of AB 235 is an innovative approach that protects all electric customers from unnecessary rate increases and compensates victims quickly, without letting PG&E off the hook for its past actions.

This measure would hold PG&E accountable to these victims by ensuring that the company – and not its customers – is forced to pay claims. Crucially, using WVRB would come at no cost to utility customers or California taxpayers. This means rates would be kept low and that the power that California seniors need to cool and heat their homes will remain affordable.

Any measure that limits potential impact to electric rates in California is of interest to the Congress of California Seniors, as many of our members are living on fixed incomes. As such, any volatility in electric bills has the potential to greatly impact the day-to-day finances of seniors. Passage of AB 235 is crucial to ensuring that energy bills in California remain affordable for our state's seniors.

The Congress of California Seniors strongly supports AB 235 and urge your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Passmore". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Gary Passmore
President

cc: Honorable Chad Mayes
Honorable Rob Bonta
Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Honorable Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Gabrielle Zeps, Office of the Speaker
Kip Lipper, Office of the President pro Tempore
Rachel Wagoner, Office of the Governor