



September 3, 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) – SUPPORT as Proposed to be Amended**

We, the undersigned, strongly support the current proposed amendment of Assembly Bill 235, recognizing that, for many communities across California, the impacts of the devastating 2017 and 2018 Northern California wildfires are still being felt.

AB 235 enables the use of Wildfire Victim Recovery Bonds (WVRBs) and provides a clear and responsible path forward from these disasters – one that provides compensation for victims as quickly as possible, while ensuring that customers are not required to pay for PG&E’s past actions.

Earlier this year, the Legislature took a significant step toward comprehensive wildfire action by passing AB 1054, creating a wildfire insurance fund to protect future victims. Now, it’s time to take the next step, making sure we don’t leave behind the victims of past catastrophic wildfires.

AB 235 takes that step. The bill would ensure that the victims of recent wildfires receive fair and prompt payment and that the funds would come only from PG&E profits – and not its customers’ bills. Additionally, AB 235 would prohibit the use of existing portions of law, passed by last year’s SB 901, that allow utilities to pass wildfire costs on to their customers. By doing so, the bill ensures that PG&E’s shareholders, not its customers, will be the ones to pay past wildfire damage claims.

The measure also provides critical state oversight of PG&E’s repayment of victims, requiring the California Public Utilities Commission to ensure that customer bills will not increase as a result of the Wildfire Victim Recovery Bonds called for in the bill.

The CPUC will be also ensure that all money raised by the bonds will pay victims of past wildfires or contribute to the insurance fund to compensate future victims.

A prompt and fair resolution of wildfire claims not only gets victims paid quickly, it also ensures that PG&E can participate in the wildfire fund established by AB 1054. AB 235 is a critical element of the state’s path forward when it comes to addressing wildfire risk and a balanced approach that prioritizes and protects both wildfire victims and customers.



We strongly support AB 235 and urge your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

Congress of California Seniors  
 Kern County Taxpayers Association  
 African American Network of Kern County  
 National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition  
 Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce of Solano County, Inc.  
 East Oakland Youth Development Center (EOYDC)  
 California Black Chamber of Commerce  
 Franciscan Action Network  
 Hispanics in Energy  
 Low Carbon Fuel and Energy Coalition  
 California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA)  
 California Building Industry Association  
 Oakland Chamber of Commerce  
 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
 Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
 Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
 San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association  
 San Ramon Chamber of Commerce  
 Santa Maria Valley Chamber  
 Santa Barbara County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
 Committee on Jobs  
 Region Business  
 San Mateo County China Trade Association  
 Guru Nanak Sikh Temple  
 National Asian American Coalition (NAAC)  
 Downtown Chico Business Association  
 Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce  
 San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
 DX3 Consulting  
 Touro University California

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

The Latino Coalition  
 California NAACP  
 California Community Builders  
 Bay Area Council  
 California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce  
 Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley  
 Jobs and Housing Coalition  
 California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce  
 Buellton Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce  
 Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA)  
 Asian Business Institute and Resource Center (ABIRC)  
 San Luis Obispo County Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business  
 California Institute  
 Asians in Energy  
 The Silicon Valley Organization  
 Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)  
 Monterey County Business Council  
 Santa Barbara County EconAlliance  
 Redwood Community Action Agency  
 Modesto Chamber of Commerce  
 Livermore Valley Chamber  
 Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce  
 North of the River Chamber of Commerce  
 Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce  
 El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce  
 Pismo Beach Chamber of Commerce  
 Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC)  
 Central Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
 OutRep International  
 TCB Industrial Contractor