



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

March 14, 2017

The Honorable Cristina Garcia  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 211 (Bigelow) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I offer our support for Assembly Bill 211, authored by Assembly Member Frank Bigelow, which would require the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) to provide an annual report to the Legislature which itemizes each expenditure on the State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee indefinitely. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

The SRA Fire Prevention Fee was enacted as part of the 2011 State Budget and imposed an annual fee of \$150 on each habitable structure located within a SRA. Monies collected from the fee are deposited into the Fire Prevention Fund and used to pay for specific fire prevention activities across the State that benefit property owners who reside within the SRA. Current law already requires the Board to submit an annual written report to the Legislature notifying them on how the monies are being expended, however, this reporting requirement will sunset on January 31, 2017.

While we are in support of AB 211, we would be remiss without providing a brief perspective on the imposition of the SRA Fee and its impact in rural areas of California. RCRC has long-opposed the imposition of any type of fee upon resident/structure owners whose property lies within the SRA. The SRA was never intended to serve as a tax base – rather, the creation of the SRA is to protect the resource value of the lands within it. As such, we continue to call for the complete repeal of the current SRA Fee. Short of a repeal, we recognize that proceeds of the Fee must be spent wisely and used for their intended purpose – on-the-ground fire prevention activities.

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The Honorable Cristina Garcia  
Assembly Bill 211  
March 14, 2017  
Page 2

For the above reasons, RCRC respectfully requests your "Aye" vote when this measure is heard before your committee. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON  
Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Tom Berryhill, Member of the California State Senate  
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, Member of the California State Assembly  
The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member of the California State Assembly