

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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September 4, 2018

The Honorable Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA

RE: Assembly Bill 1956 (Limon) – Year-Round Fire Prevention Act of 2018 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your support for AB 1956 (Limon), which would establish a year-round fire prevention local assistance grant program managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE). AB 1956 would reestablish a fire prevention working group that includes fire prevention experts to develop new methods of fire prevention, as well as require the Director of Forestry and Fire Prevention, on or before July 1, 2021, to hold a public workshop to review activities funded by the local assistance grant program and program outcomes, and discuss and recommend possible improvements to the program. The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2018 Legislative Platform that supports efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenues.

Given the devastation of the Thomas Fire in December 2017, the idea of year-round fire prevention activities no longer seems unusual, rather it has become essential to reducing the risk of, and harm from, wildfires in all seasons here in California. The Board supports the idea of local assistance grant funding to local fire agencies for improving fire prevention and reducing hazards. Examples include vegetation management, education and outreach, creation of defensible space, and retrofitting of structures to increase fire resistance. The County is also pleased to support the re-establishment of a fire prevention working group to provide identify and promote new evidence-based methods of fire prevention.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
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Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors