

<<Date>>

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Signature Requested for AB 2447 (Jones)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request that you sign AB 2447 by Assemblymember Jones. This legislation will enact long-overdue protections ensuring increased fire safety for proposed developments in high fire danger areas of our state.

Before approval of new developments in high fire hazard zones, AB 2447 would require counties to determine:

- 1) The new subdivision complies with fire safety design guidelines;
- 2) Sufficient fire protection services will be available; and
- 3) The new subdivision will have a minimum of two roads in and out of the area to ensure safe evacuation, and access for emergency vehicles in the event of a fire, unless the County finds an exception is warranted.

In summary, AB 2447 says: Don't approve new building sites unless they are designed properly so that firefighters can do their job, a fire agency says they can serve them, and people can get in and out safely. Don't be misled by arguments that we already have good defensible space and building material standards. AB2447 is not about **how** homes are built, but is about ensuring **where** homes are built is safer.

This summer, as well as in many past summers, we have been tragically reminded of the costs in human life and property from raging wildfires. AB 2447 is a commonsense approach that will help prevent these tragedies in the future. All Californians will benefit, as better planning will reduce the demand on the State General Fund for firefighting expenses.

Sincerely,

<<name and address>>