



El Dorado County Fire Insurance Access and Affordability Stakeholder Workgroup

August 21, 2019

Re: Growing crisis related to the availability and affordability of protective fire insurance for homeowners and business owners in El Dorado County

To: Commissioner Ricardo Lara

In El Dorado County, availability and affordability of protective fire insurance for homeowners has become decreasingly available at a rapid speed. This issue has become a crisis in our community and continues to affect more residents every day that passes.

To ensure that we have a strong unified voice, the El Dorado County Democratic Party, El Dorado County Republican Party, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce and El Dorado County Association of Realtors have formed a stakeholder work group focused on forging a stronger unified voice to move forward on County, State, and Federal actions to alleviate this crisis.

In the last two years, California has been hit with the most destructive wildfires in the state's history. Due to the catastrophic nature of these fires, insurance companies across the state have taken swift action to redefine how they determine an individual property's risk level. Subsequently, insurance companies have increasingly denied to renew homeowner's insurance policies with fire protection coverage for properties. Some companies have completely pulled out of the market in areas of the state that have been defined as high fire risk on the tiered wildland fire-threat map prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) as part of its Fire Resource and Assessment Program (FRAP). According to these maps, El Dorado County is almost entirely encompassed within Tier 2 and Tier 3 fire risk zones placing an estimated 75% of the 90,000 residential properties at risk of losing protective fire insurance coverage or receiving high premium increases.

Every conversation and effort to advocate for wildfire preparedness, must prioritize ensuring access to affordable protective insurance coverage for the communities at risk. Rural communities with a high wildfire risk stand to bear serious costs associated with any crisis recovery and need to be at the table to help avert exacerbated recovery costs compounded by a lack of insurance coverage.

This issue is non-partisan and addressing this challenge will require a unified voice from our community. Our group is committed to collaborating on solutions for the benefit of our community. We would welcome the opportunity to be included in local, regional and statewide discussions. While we don't have all the answers, we feel strongly that there are achievable solutions through unified, collaborative and transparent actions. We stand ready to assist, as active and collaborative members of El Dorado County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Joshua Elder
Chair
El Dorado County Democratic Party



Todd White
Chair
El Dorado County Republican Party



Laurel Brent-Bumb A.C.E.
Chief Executive Officer
El Dorado County Chamber
of Commerce



Debra Miller
President
El Dorado County Association of Realtors



Debbie Manning
President & CEO
El Dorado Hills Chamber
of Commerce

cc: Governor Newsom, Lt. Governor Kounalakis

Senator Brian Dahle, Assembly member Bigelow, Assembly member Kiley

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, Placerville City Council, South Lake Tahoe City Council