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The Honorable Jim Patterson
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94249-0008
Sacramento, CA 94249-0008

**RE: Assembly Bill 704 – Support
As Amended April 6, 2023**

Dear Assembly Member Patterson:

El Dorado County would like to express its support for AB 704 (Patterson), which would ease the solar requirements for property owners that have lost their homes due to a wildfire.

This bill, until January 1, 2027, requires residential construction intended to repair, restore, or replace a residential building damaged or destroyed because of a disaster in an area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor to comply only with requirements regarding photovoltaic systems that were in effect at the time the damaged or destroyed residential building was originally constructed, when specified conditions are met.

El Dorado County has unfortunately been adversely affected by several large wildfires in recent years that have resulted in the Governor proclaiming a state of emergency. Last year, the Mosquito Fire burned over 76,000 acres, destroyed 78 structures, and damaged 13 more. The Caldor Fire, in 2021, burned over 220,000 acres, destroyed over 1,000 structures, and damaged an additional 81.

This bill would provide relief to homeowners already devastated from the loss or damage to their homes and potentially avoid adding insult to injury by not adding new building standards and costs as a result of a wildfire destruction.

El Dorado County appreciates your action on this important issue. Please contact our Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Tiffany Schmid, at tiffany.schmid@edcgov.us, if we can be of any assistance in your efforts to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Add Name, Organization and Title Here

cc: Member, Assembly Appropriations Committee