

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

JAMES S. MITRISIN
Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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District I
RAY NUTTING
District II
BRIAN K. VEERKAMP
District III
RON BRIGGS
District IV
NORMA SANTIAGO
District V

March 26, 2013

The Honorable Joan Buchanan, Chair
Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Support for Assembly Joint Resolution 9

Dear Assembly Member Buchanan:

The County of El Dorado supports Assembly Joint Resolution 9. We applaud the effort to encourage Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

The Act provides critical school, road, fire-safe, and search and rescue funding for counties.

We encourage your support. Should you or your staff have any questions about this matter, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Terri Daly at (530) 621-5530.

Sincerely,

Ron Briggs, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: Assembly Member Kristin Olsen, Vice Chair, Assembly Education Committee
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
Assembly Member Beth Gaines
Senator Ted Gaines

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March 26, 2013

The Honorable Fran Pavley, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 125

Dear Senator Pavley:

The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado supports Senate Bill 125 by Senator Gaines to exempt property owners in the State Responsibility Area who also live within the boundaries of fire protection district from the State Fire Prevention Fee.

According to GIS data from the County Surveyor's Office, in El Dorado County there are 65,671 privately owned parcels in the State Responsibility Area that are also partially or completely within the boundaries of a local fire protection district. These property owners already pay ad valorem taxes to local fire protections districts and in most cases, an additional special tax or assessment. Local districts already provide a both fire prevention and fire protection benefits to property owners they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 125. Should you or your staff have any questions about this matter, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Terri Daly at (530) 621-5530.

Sincerely,



Ron Briggs, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: Senator Anthony Cannella, Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water
Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Beth Gaines
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow

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March 26, 2013

The Honorable Fran Pavley, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 17

Dear Senator Pavley:

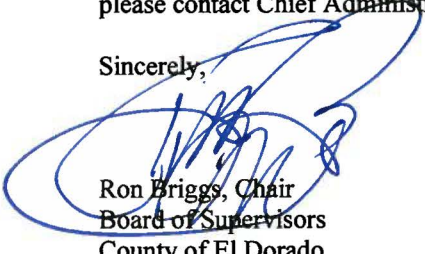
The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado supports Senate Bill 17 by Senator Gaines to repeal the Fire Prevention Fee in State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

Although El Dorado County is the 29th largest county in terms of population, we are the 4th largest in terms of fire fee bills due to the size of the State Responsibility Area. It is our understanding that over 51,000 fire fee bills were sent to El Dorado County property owners. Assuming most property owners receive the \$35 dollar credit for paying taxes to a local fire protection district, this represents nearly \$6.9 million that El Dorado County residents are now paying to the State of California each year with negligible benefit.

The Legislature has significantly underestimated the devastating effect the fire fee will inevitably have on local fire protection agencies. Rural fire protection districts provide all-hazard emergency response, and are often the first responders to wildfire incidents. In addition to ad valorem property taxes, most rural property owners in the County of El Dorado also pay a voter-approved special tax and/or fire suppression assessment. Despite this revenue, with increasing personnel, training and equipment costs local fire protection districts are on the brink of financial deterioration. The new fire prevention fee all but guarantees that local fire districts will never again achieve voter or landowner approval for new special taxes or assessments. The true consequence of this will be the complete dissolution of rural fire protection districts, which will in turn increase risk and further strain Cal Fire resources. This complex interplay between state and local fire protection efforts deserves detailed analysis.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 17. Should you or your staff have any questions about this matter, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Terri Daly at (530) 621-5530.

Sincerely,



Ron Briggs, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: Senator Anthony Cannella, Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water
Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Beth Gaines
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow

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March 26, 2013

The Honorable Fran Pavley, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 147

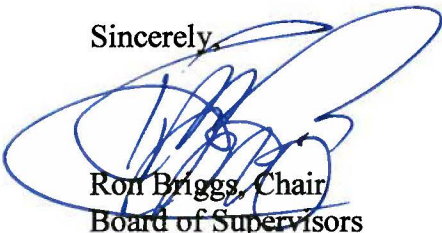
Dear Senator Pavley:

The Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado supports Senate Bill 147 by Senator Gaines to exempt property owners from the State Fire Prevention Fee if the property owner has an income of less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

The annual fire prevention fee creates a financial hardship for many low-income seniors and families. The Board of Supervisors remains opposed to the fire prevention fee and would prefer a complete repeal. However, if the Legislature maintains the fire prevention fee, creating an exemption for financially stressed property owners is reasonable. According to U.S. Census data, there are approximately 12,000 El Dorado County families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level. While not all of these families own property within the State Responsibility Area, Senate Bill 147 clearly has the potential to help a significant number of residents.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 147. Should you or your staff have any questions about this matter, please contact Chief Administrative Officer Terri Daly at (530) 621-5530.

Sincerely,



Ron Briggs, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: Senator Anthony Cannella, Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water
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Assembly Member Frank Bigelow