

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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June 2, 2015

The Honorable Frank Bigelow
State Capitol, Room 6027
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 301 (BIGELOW)

Dear Assemblyman Bigelow,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I am pleased to report that our board has decided to support AB 301, which would allow the buyer and seller of a property with a habitable structure in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) to negotiate the Fire Prevention Fee as one of the terms of the sale. It would also require CAL FIRE to notify fee payers that they are allowed to negotiate the fee if there is a transfer of ownership.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners \$152.33 for each habitable structure located in the SRA. The owner of the habitable structure, which is determined by the owner on record as of July 1st, must pay the fee within 30 days for the entire year even if the property changes ownership.

AB 301 will remedy this problem by requiring the department to notify property owners in the SRA that they can negotiate the SRA fee as a term of the sale of their property. This bill would also clear up any confusion around the legality of negotiating the fee as a term of the sale.

For these reasons, El Dorado County is supporting AB 301. However, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors encourages the assemblyman and the legislature to repeal the Fire Prevention Fee.

Sincerely,

Chairman, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors