

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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September 9, 2011

Senator Ted Gaines
State Capitol Rm 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Honorable Ted Gaines,

The County of El Dorado supports the Referendum to Overturn ABX1 29, Chapters 8, Statutes of 2011, First Extraordinary Session; a law requiring the State to establish an annual wildfire prevention fee for each habitable building located in State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

Passed by a simple majority vote as part of the 2011 state budget package, ABX1 29 is an attempt to disguise a tax as a "fee." This new tax disregards the will of the voters and violates Proposition 26, the 2010 Initiative preventing the Legislature from raising taxes without the required two-thirds vote.

There are 565,087 acres of the County of El Dorado in State Responsibility Areas. This new tax further stifles already struggling rural economies and fails to increase local fire protection services. We stand with Senator Ted Gaines and his efforts behind the Referendum to overturn ABX1 29, and to place the tax on a statewide ballot as a challenge to the existing state law and allow the voters the opportunity to decide.

Respectfully,


Raymond J. Nutting, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

c: Honorable Governor Jerry Brown
Honorable Senator Bob Dutton