



CALIFORNIA
CHAPARRAL
INSTITUTE

...the voice of the chaparral

August 26, 2018

Ms. Debbie Michel
Chief Consultant
Assembly Local Government Committee

Dear Ms. Michel,

We are writing you to offer our full and enthusiastic support for Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's new bill, SB 465, one that will allow property owners to finance the installation of wildfire safety improvements for their existing homes and businesses via California's PACE program.

The science is clear. Creating fire safe communities by reducing the flammability of structures is the single best way to protect existing homes from wildfire. Consequently, we are extremely grateful for Senator Jackson's leadership in this effort.

After the loss of so many lives and homes during and since the October 2017 wildfires, we have been hopeful that policy makers would recognize that our standard approach to reducing wildfire risk reduction, trying to control Nature, needs changing. Wildfires are inevitable, but the catastrophic losses we have been experiencing are not. Communities burn because they are flammable and have been placed in harm's way. Senator Jackson is first legislator to recognize these facts and offer a creative solution to address them.

We are inspired by Senator Jackson's proposal and hope other legislators will follow her lead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Halsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Richard W. Halsey
Director
California Chaparral Institute