



June 6, 2024

The Honorable Damon Connolly
State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support -- Assembly Bill 2416 (As Amended on April 22, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember Connolly:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support for your bill Assembly Bill 2416. Specifically, your legislation requires, by December 31, 2027, and every three years thereafter, the Department of Insurance (CDI) to evaluate whether to update the Safer from Wildfires regulations to include certain building hardening measures.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

MARK STAPP
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ

VICTORIA FLEMING

DIANNA MACDONALD

JEFF OKREPKIE

CHRIS ROGERS

As you know, during the 2017 Tubbs and Nuns Fires, nine residents died, 3,043 residential units were destroyed displacing thousands of people from their homes, and thirty-six commercial buildings were destroyed putting hundreds of people out of work in the City of Santa Rosa alone. In 2019, tens of thousands of residents were forced to evacuate yet again when the Kincade Fire threatened our community. In 2020, dozens of homes were destroyed in the city as a result of the Glass Fire. The immense devastation Santa Rosa faced since 2017 fires was profound. We need to support legislative efforts to prevent wildfires and promote resiliency initiatives to protect our homes and wildfire.

The City of Santa Rosa strongly supports enhancing state assistance, including incentives for homeowners to build stronger and safer before disasters strike. According to the National Institute of Building Sciences, research shows that every \$1 spent on mitigation efforts leads to \$6 in reduced future disaster costs. Mitigating the disaster risk could also help with the risk-based insurance rates for these properties.

Thank you for authoring this critical measure. For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa supports AB 2416. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Alyssa Silhi with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor