



Senator Mike McGuire
California State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1189 (McGuire) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire,

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am pleased to support SB 1189, which expands the one-size-fits-all contracting license, and creates a new classification that focuses on residential rebuilding so that when homes are being rebuilt after disasters, victims can be sure that their contractor is properly trained for the job at hand.

Over 3,000 homes were lost within the Santa Rosa city limits alone during the October 2017 wildfires that caused widespread devastation to several counties in the North Bay. We have seen firsthand in our City the challenges fire survivors face in trying to rebuild their homes from the ground up – and unfortunately – we have also seen some fire survivors significantly delayed in rebuilding because their contractor was not adequately skilled to complete the rebuild. SB 1189 will ensure that homeowners have the expertise they need in a contractor to rebuild after a wildfire or other future disaster.

While the Contractors State Licensing Board has a general contractors license, it does not currently have a classification for individuals with experience performing multiple services for in-home remodeling and improvements. This results in two problematic outcomes. Some individuals who are qualified to do remodel work don't get licensed at all because they don't meet all the General Building Contractor's license requirement. And then there are those who manage to get licensed but really don't have the proper expertise to do full rebuilds.

SB 1189 will create a new contractor licensing classification specific to residential remodeling. Contractors who have experience with remodeling will be able to qualify for the new residential remodeling license, and contractors who are trained for rebuild projects will continue to keep their General Building License. By narrowing the General Building License, the one-size-fits-all model will no longer allow inexperienced contractors to take on full rebuild projects. Additionally, SB 1189 will also expand existing laws for home improvement projects to home reconstruction, restoration or rebuilding projects affected by natural or major disasters.

For all these reasons, **the City of Santa Rosa is in strong support of SB 1189.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Schwedhelm".

Tom Schwedhelm, Mayor
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