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September 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 109 (Dodd) Office of Emergency Services: Office of Technology Research
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) I write to request your signature on SB 109 (Dodd), which would establish the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development in the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). This office would test and research tools and technology to prevent and suppress wildfires and to serve as central point for the identification of emerging wildfire prevention technologies.

Counties are on the front lines of dealing with and responding to California’s increasingly devastating climate driven mega-fires. Seventeen of the 20 largest wildfires in California history have occurred since 2000, and six of the seven largest wildfire occurred in 2020 alone. California must develop more tools and strategies to prevent and suppress these devastating fires. This proposed office would provide a very important service to the state and could provide excellent insight and advice on the development and procurement of wildfire prevention technologies.

For the reasons stated above, CSAC supports SB 109 and requests your signature on the measure. Please do not hesitate to reach out for more information about our position.

Sincerely,

Catherine Freeman
Legislative Representative
cfreeman@counties.org

CC: The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate