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August 16, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SB 109 (Dodd) Office of Emergency Services: Office of Technology Research and Development
As amended July 9, 2021 – SUPPORT
Set for hearing – August 19, 2021 Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support 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.

CSAC supports efforts to increase the state's resiliency against disasters. SB 109 could increase the tools, technology, and resources to help suppress and prevent climate driven mega-fires. It is for these reasons that we support SB 109. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please feel free to contact Catherine Freeman, CSAC's legislative representative on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources issues at 916-662-6400 or at cfreeman@counties.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Freeman
Legislative Advocate

CC: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee