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September 14, 2021

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

**Re: AB 9 (Wood) Fire safety: wildfires: fire adapted communities
Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) I write to request your signature on AB 9 (Wood), a bill that seeks to codify the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program, which creates a new regional approach to collaboratively planned strategies for wildfire risk reduction project development.

Developing fire-adapted communities throughout the state will require a decentralized approach, as California’s various regions face unique factors that drive wildfire risk in the region. The RFFC program is helping to fill the existing capacity gaps by granting funds to regional entities to work with local, state, and federal partners to develop Regional Priority Plans.

AB 9 seeks to codify the RFFC and support the Department of Conservation (DOC) in creating new regional entities and sustaining the regional entities funded to date. AB 9 will provide statutory guidance to DOC in expanding the focus of RFFC to examine project development within communities in addition to projects on the landscape. The RFFC is creating an additional pathway for achieving wildfire resilience and AB 9 will push RFFC to additional success.

For the reasons stated above, CSAC supports AB 9 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 Jim Wood, California State Assembly