



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
Chair, Assembly Emergency Management Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 360B
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 3150 (Quirk-Silva) – SUPPORT
As Amended April 1, 2024**

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) we support Assembly Bill 3150, authored by Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva. This measure allows the Office of the State Fire Marshal to consider revisions to California's Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps through a petition process, as well as increasing opportunity for public input on the update process for Local Responsibility Area (LRA) FHSZ maps. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Residents in RCRC member counties are profoundly impacted by the state's FHSZ maps. The most recent update of the State Responsibility Area (SRA) FHSZ maps represented a dramatic shift of acreage into high- and very-high fire hazard severity classification, which not only impacts property values but has direct and indirect impacts on the affordability and availability of property insurance in these communities. The accuracy of these maps is of paramount importance to aid residents with identifying the best fire mitigation actions and to help with the state's current property insurance crisis.

AB 3150 would help strengthen the state's FHSZ mapping process by establishing a mechanism to update the maps for 50 acres or more, similar to the longstanding process used for flood map revisions. AB 3150 also allows for public input on the update of the FHSZ maps for LRA, aligning with existing law for SRA. Finally, AB 3150 shifts some regulatory authority from the Board of Forestry to the State Fire Marshal, who is responsible for the FHSZ maps statewide.

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For the above reasons, RCRC supports AB 3150 and urges your “aye” vote. Please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, California State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Mike Dayton, Chief Consultant, Assembly Emergency Management Committee
Rose Rastbaf, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus