



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

August 7, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 571 (Allen) Fire safety regulations: development projects: ingress and egress route standards.
As Amended July 8, 2024 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bryan:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we are pleased to support Senate Bill 571, authored by Senator Ben Allen. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

SB 571 requires the Office of Planning and Research to conduct a study evaluating potential improvements to state standards related to evacuation routes for all new developments in the event of a natural disaster. RCRC member counties include some of the lands most prone to natural disasters, especially wildfires. While creating standards for ingress and egress in these areas to ensure safety for residents during a natural disaster is paramount, it must be based on data and reasonably balanced with feasibility and other state priorities, such as increased residential construction. SB 571 represents a balanced approach to evaluating safety standards for disaster readiness and was written in collaboration with stakeholders, including RCRC.

We appreciate the author's willingness to work with local governments to address our concerns and look at the issue of disaster evacuation safety in a holistic manner. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

TRACY RHINE
Senior Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Member of the California State Senate

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Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

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