



State Council of the International Association of Fire Fighters - California Labor Federation - AFL-CIO

July 11, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
The Honorable Cristina Garcia
Members, California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 398 (E. Garcia) & AB 617 (C. Garcia) - **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymembers:

The California Professional Firefighters (CPF), state council of the International Association of Fire Fighters, representing over 30,000 career firefighting and emergency medical service personnel statewide, supports your AB 398 and AB 617, as recently amended.

These bills extend the state's cap and trade program, ensure that California meets its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets, and, for the first time, take steps to directly attack the air quality problems afflicting vulnerable communities in our state that are most impacted by pollution. Together, AB 398 and AB 617 ensure that California remains a leader in efforts to combat climate change, while also enable such policies to be implemented fairly and, at the same time, improve our air quality and boost our economy.

As firefighters know firsthand, California must now consistently prepare for extreme temperature swings and climate-change related disasters: floods, droughts, wildfires, and mudslides, just to name a few. If you live in California, odds are you're in a climate-change related danger zone: Seven million Californians and \$580 billion in assets are exposed to major flood risk; One in six federal disaster declarations in California are mudslide-related. Two million households -- about one in five -- are at high or extreme wildfire risk. During just the first ten days of this July, nearly two dozen wildfires throughout California charred upwards of 80,000 acres, forcing over 14,000 to flee their homes. More than 7,000 firefighters from more than 300 departments were called upon to respond. The size and extremity of these fires is a direct result of the climate extremes experienced by our state over the last several years.

AB 398 and AB 617 continue the state's goals of addressing the vulnerability that California and its communities currently face regarding the ongoing environmental consequences of climate change. These bills are important steps in shaping California's climate adaptation

and resilience going forward -- both environmentally and economically. Indeed, a concerted and focused commitment to investing in mitigating the impact of climate change on our state is essential as we face this new and extreme environmental reality.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing commitment to California's state and local firefighters and the communities in which our members serve. For these reasons, we are pleased to support these important bills.

Sincerely,



CHRISTY BOUMA

Governmental Advocate

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c: Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate Republican Leader Patricia Bates
Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes