



EMPOWERING THE INSURED

May 27, 2009

Via Email and Facsimile to (916) 319-2133

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 43

**Board of Directors**

**Amy Bach, Esq.**  
*Executive Director*

**Alice J. Wolfson, Esq.**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**Hon. Stanley G. Feldman**  
*Chief Justice (RET)*  
*AZ Supreme Court*

**Larry P. Ginsburg, CFP®**  
*Ginsburg Financial Advisors, Inc.*

**William H. Hedden**  
*Consolidated Adjusting, Inc.*

**E. Gerard Mannion, Esq.**  
*Mannion & Lowe*

**William M. Shernoff, Esq.**  
*Shernoff, Bidart & Darras LLP*

**Tricia Swift**  
*The Grubb Company*

Dear Assemblyman Blakeslee,

We are writing to express our support for your Assembly bill 43. We all agree that the California Earthquake Authority should operate efficiently and effectively, but the current statutory 25 employee ceiling is not realistic. We commend you for taking the initiative to remove this unreasonable constraint.

The CEA's statutory duties include helping California homeowners take steps to make their homes more resistant to quake damage. However, the Authority's mitigation-related outreach and support activities have been uneven in recent years. This is largely because it has ongoing financial challenges and very limited staffing resources. These factors make it hard to keep mitigation a high priority. Allowing the CEA to employ a Chief Mitigation Officer will help it do a better job of fulfilling this important statutory duty.

United Policyholders is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that helps solve insurance problems. Through our Roadmap to Preparedness Program we educate Californians on the importance of financial security and damage mitigation. We have worked closely with CEA staff for many years and we strongly support this bill. This bill will create more resources and programs for California homeowners and will equally make California more disaster-ready and earthquake safe.

Sincerely,

Amy Bach, Executive Director

cc: Hon. Karen Bass, Speaker of the Assembly

[www.unitedpolicyholders.org](http://www.unitedpolicyholders.org)

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