



Roadmap to Recovery®
Advocacy and Action
Roadmap to Preparedness

June 19, 2024

The Honorable Damon Connolly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0012

Re: SUPPORT AB 2416 Residential property insurance: wildfire risk

Dear Assemblymember Connolly,

On behalf of United Policyholders,¹ I write to express support for AB 2416 and thank you for introducing this measure.

Thanks to the pioneering work of the Safer from Wildfires partners, the Institute for Home and Business Safety, United Policyholders' Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection working group and all the firefighting agencies, Fire Safe Councils and community-based stakeholders, we are seeing a steady increase in wildfire risk reduction in California.

One of the biggest obstacles to widespread home hardening and increasing defensible space around structures is that the risk scoring models and rating plans that insurance companies are using to select, reject and price risks are factoring in only very limited risk reduction criteria. As we gain more understanding, data and science on the efficacy of reducing wildfire risk to structures and communities, we are identifying new materials, techniques and approaches that are effective.

This proposal will help ensure that the regulator (the CA Department of Insurance), insurers and risk modelers stay current on what's working (and not working) to reduce risk, and incorporate rate adjustments that reflect those updates.

¹ United Policyholders ("UP") is a non-profit organization that has been informing, helping, and speaking for insurance consumers across the United States since 1991. UP is funded by donations, grants and volunteer labor. Through our Roadmap to Preparedness and Roadmap to Recovery programs, UP helps Americans reduce risk, insure their assets, and successfully navigate a loss recovery.

For the above reasons, United Policyholders supports AB 2416.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Bach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and the last name "Bach" clearly legible.

Amy Bach
Executive Director