



Friends of Banner Mountain

Est. 1984



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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** FBM is a non-profit
organization with an
all-volunteer Board.*

September 17, 2024

Insurance Commission Ricardo Lara
California Department of Insurance
Capitol Mall, 17th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Input on Final Phase of New Wildfire Modeling Regulation

Dear Commissioner Lara,

The Friends of Banner Mountain (FBM) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect Banner Mountain and its natural and cultural resources for the benefit of residents, visitors, and future generations.

Banner Mountain is located within the rural unincorporated area of Nevada County and is home to approximately 3000 residents. We are writing to voice our support of your historic and precedent setting proposed regulation designed to encourage an increased number of homeowners' insurance carriers back into the California market.

Our members are in crisis. Long time existing carriers are cancelling policies. Those who do remain are increasing policy costs exponentially. Many of residents can only find coverage through the "carrier of last resort", the California FAIR Plan. Our primarily senior and fixed income residents never thought they might lose their homes due to an inability to afford their homeowners' policies. Some, who do not have a mortgage, are beginning to weigh the risks of doing without coverage at all.

While the outcome of your proposed regulation remains to be seen, something has to be done to address the lack of carrier choice and lack of competition for business. It is our hope that your proposed regulation will ultimately result in more carrier choices, unburdening the significant risk pool currently placed on the California FAIR Plan, and relief from skyrocketing policy costs.

Together, we share a passion to protect consumers and serve the best interests of the residents of Banner Mountain and the entire state. Thank you for your concerted efforts in that regard.

Sincerely,

Edward Sylvester, President
Friends of Banner Mountain

"Celebrating 40 Years as The Voice of Banner Mountain"

<http://www.bannermountain.org>