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March 14, 2022

The Honorable Henry Stern  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
1021 O St. Room 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: – SUPPORT, SB 896 (Dodd), Wildfires: Defensible Space: Grant Programs: Local Governments**

Dear Chair Stern,

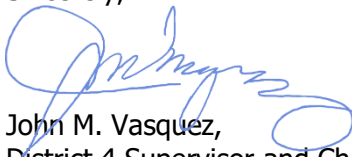
On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 896 (Dodd), which will require local government entities that conduct defensible space inspections within very-high wildfire threat severity zones and reports to CalFire to utilize a common reporting platform.

One strategy for mitigating future wildfire disasters is through the maintenance of defensible space to reduce the chances of home ignition. But there currently is no comprehensive data on defensible space activities like inspections and compliance. This lack of statewide data makes it increasingly difficult to identify gaps in the CalFire inspections program as well as understand if households are out of compliance. In existing law, CalFire is in charge of enforcing defensible space requirements on their common reporting platform but many local entities are also responsible for inspections in their jurisdictions.

Under SB 896 any local entity that inspects defensible space and chooses to report this data to then report that data to CalFire's common reporting platform. The bill will also create an incentive for those qualified entities who inspect and report inspection data to the platform to receive a five percent scoring bonus when applying for CalFire wildfire prevention and home hardening grants.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support SB 896 (Dodd) and ask that you vote aye when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Vasquez,  
District 4 Supervisor and Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

**CC:**

Honorable Bill Dodd, Member, California State Senate  
Honorable Cecile Aguiar-Curry, Member, California State Assembly  
Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly  
Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Karen Lange, Legislative Advocate