

September 12, 2025

RE: SB 254 (Becker) - Support

Dear Governor Newsom and Members of the Legislature:

On behalf of a growing coalition of public safety leaders, labor unions, businesses, community organizations and California's investor-owned utilities, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 254. This legislation will strengthen California's Wildfire Fund to ensure sufficient resources are available to help wildfire victims and communities recover and rebuild, while also addressing electricity affordability.

As part of this legislative package, California's three investor-owned utilities (IOUs) have committed **\$9 billion** in new shareholder contributions to strengthen the Fund. In addition, the IOUs have committed **\$6 billion** for wildfire prevention investments — including undergrounding power lines — without earning a rate of return, as part of a deal to improve electricity affordability this year.

We urge the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 254 to provide strong support for families and communities impacted by wildfires and to protect families and communities across the state from higher electricity bills.

Sincerely,