

To:
California Legislature
Governor Gavin Newsom

(reflecting signatories as of May 19, 2026)

Cc:
Assemblymember James Gallagher (AB 2700 Author)
Monique Limon, Senate President pro Tempore
Brian W. Jones, Senate Republican Leader
Josh Lowenthal, Assembly Speaker pro Tempore
Heath Flora, Assembly Republican Leader

Re: SUPPORT AB 2700 and Survivor-Focused Implementation of SB 254 Study Findings

Dear Governor Newsom and Members of the California State Legislature,

The undersigned organizations, representing wildfire survivors and fire-impacted communities across California, write in **strong support of AB 2700** and in support of further legislative action arising from the SB 254 Study to ensure **full, fair, and timely compensation for ALL utility-caused wildfire victims**. AB 2700 is a critical and necessary step forward. It requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to:

- Identify verified restitution shortfalls for victims of utility-caused wildfires including those occurring prior to July 12, 2019
- Recommend mechanisms to ensure fire victims are **fully compensated**

This framework directly addresses a longstanding inequity: thousands of wildfire survivors, including those from the 2015-2018 fires, remain short of PG&E commitments, with no existing statutory pathway to recover the remaining losses. The undersigned organizations are guided by a shared principle:

ALL utility wildfire survivors deserve fair, full and timely restitution.

Within a September, 2025 Federal Court ruling, Judge Montali noted that PG&E fire victims should look for "*other efforts before legislative or administrative bodies*" to address any remaining shortfall and stated that this was required because "*AB 1054 and AB 111 (signed into law at the same time)... provided no relief for damages caused by the wildfires.*"¹

In keeping with this court directive and the recently released **SB 254 Study** findings, we ask for your leadership and support around legislation that delivers **full, timely, efficient, and equitable compensation for ALL utility-caused fire victims**. While AB 2700 provides the legislative foundation to translate those study findings into action, we also seek your support to **strengthen this bill and other legislation** through committee amendments this session to:

1. Ensure **timely and transparent identification of restitution shortfalls**
2. Require **implementation mechanisms** and not just recommendations for further study

¹ See Case#25-03027, Memorandum Decision [Dkt. 104], September 19, 2025

3. Prioritize **non-ratepayer solutions** (deferred dividends, restitution bonds, etc.) that hold utilities accountable to pay ALL utility caused fire victims with valid claims
4. Align **bottom-line utility financial incentives** (ROE, executive compensation) with their performance towards our public priorities (affordable rates, wildfire mitigation, full victim restitution)

These improvements will ensure AB 2700 functions not only as a study requirement but as a **pathway to just, fair, full and timely payments for all fire victims**. For these reasons, we respectfully call on leaders across California to:

- **PASS AB 2700**, and
- Support continued legislative efforts aligned with the SB 254 Study to deliver **full restitution for all wildfire survivors, affordable utility rates and wildfire safety**.

Investor-owned utilities, including PG&E and SCE, as well as leaders across California, made a commitment, explicitly and repeatedly, that wildfire victims would be fairly and fully compensated. **That commitment must now be fulfilled for all utility-caused wildfire victims.**

Sincerely,



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