



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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April 16, 2025

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 468 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our support of Assembly Bill 468 (Gabriel), which increases penalties for looting and impersonating emergency personnel in an evacuation zone.

After the Palisades and Eaton fires, there were many reports of looters breaking into homes and rummaging through rubble to find precious possessions left by evacuated residents. Some of these looters were dressed as firefighters and other emergency personnel in an effort to enter evacuation zones with restricted access. Such criminal activity not only undermines public safety in fire-impacted communities, but it also increases the pain and suffering of wildfire victims, who have already been through enormous hardship. We applaud Assemblymember Gabriel for his leadership on this issue, as it is critical that loopholes in existing public safety laws are closed to adequately protect communities if and when a local disaster takes place.

CCCA represents 80 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our support of AB 468.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director

CC: Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee