



3/25/2021

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Testimony on SB 166 (Support)

Members of the committee, on behalf of over 27,000 REALTORS® of Colorado we strongly support the recommendations outlined by the Colorado Fire Commission in Senate Bill 166.

The costs and impacts to lives and homes that result from wildfires each year continue to rise. Last year, Colorado's record-breaking fires burned 667,000 acres, destroying more than 400 homes which left many Colorado residents with nothing. Colorado is facing the risk of an even worse fire season this year. There is a large responsibility placed on our local communities and property owners to plan early, mitigate and respond quickly to reduce the destruction caused by wildfires. However, a lack of resources and funding is the top barrier to proper mitigation and preparation.

Senate Bill 166, strengthens statewide and regional coordination efforts to mitigate, prevent, prepare for and suppress wildfires and dedicates funding for fires that exceed county capability and provide state assistance to local communities to boost their efforts.

Colorado REALTORS® have partnered with the Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Insurance Association, the National Fire Protection

Association, and other like-minded fire prevention organizations to create Colorado Project Wildfire. Colorado Project Wildfire helps bring education, awareness, and access to resources directly to residents in our local communities. In the face of long-term risk, Colorado REALTORS® believe that education combined with monetary incentives, along with access to local resources, are the most effective ways to address future wildfire damage.

If we do not take the proactive steps to prioritize funding for forest health, mitigation, preparedness and response, the damage and loss caused by wildfires will only increase each year. And if Colorado communities continue to face wildfires unprepared, there is a strong potential for an increase in property related expenses including higher transactional costs and taxes, as well as rising insurance premiums for both residents in WUI areas and throughout the state.

We appreciate the Colorado Fire Commission's thoughtful approach to address Colorado's fire concerns and for identifying areas of improvements in statewide and regional wildfire preparation and response efforts.

On behalf of over 27,000 Colorado REALTORS® we ask for your YES vote on Senate Bill 166.

