[DATE]

The Honorable Senator Dodd

Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee

1020 N Street, Room 584

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 577 (Hurtado) ––The State Fire Training Accessibility Act ––SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Dodd,

The [ORGANIZATION NAME OR YOUR NAME] is pleased to support SB 577 (Hurtado) which would allow the State Fire Marshal to accept additional funding sources for the California Fire Service Training and Education Program. The bill would make the same change relative to the California Fire and Arson Training Act. Permitting the State Fire Marshall to receive additional funding sources for training programs will help to mitigate rising fees for those seeking fire training certification.

[OPTIONAL: ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION, IF APPLICABLE]

[OPTIONAL: INSERT IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO YOUR WORK]

California State Fire Training (SFT) provides curriculum and certification to current fire department firefighters, and individuals seeking a career in the fire service. Over the years the fire service has become more professional and certifications are now required for every position in the fire service. To generate enough revenue, fees needed to be raised by over 200% and in some cases as high as 400%. This has resulted in courses and certification becoming unaffordable to volunteer firefighters and for individuals seeking entry level positions.

SB 577 allows the State Fire Marshal to accept additional funding sources for the California Fire Service Training and Education Program. The bill would make the same change relative to the California Fire and Arson Training Act. Due to the enormous risk of fire and other disasters that face California, we must make State Fire Training an affordable solution for our paid and volunteer firefighters, as well as students wishing to enter the fire service.

For these reasons, [ORGANIZATION NAME OR I, YOUR NAME] supports SB 577 (Hurtado) and respectfully asks for your AYE vote in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[TITLE

Cc: Members, Senate Governmental Organization Committee

Senator Melissa Hurtado, author