

Sample Support Letter – AB 1945 (Aguiar-Curry)

Please submit a support letter on letterhead here: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>

Send Copy to: veronica@calruralhousing.org

Date

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1945 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Holden:

[Name of Your Organization] is proud to support AB 1945, a bill to create the Affordable Disaster Housing Revolving Development and Acquisition Program, an emergency bridge loan fund for housing recovery in disaster areas. We strongly urge the Assembly Appropriations Committee to pass out this critically important bill.

[Brief description of Your Organization and why this bill is important to you]

The wildfires of 2017 and 2018 destroyed 28,000 homes in the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Sonoma, Trinity, and Ventura. The deadly Camp Fire alone destroyed the entire town of Paradise and nearly 14,000 homes, killed 85 people and was the deadliest fire in California history. 2020 broke all records, accounting for 5 of the 6 biggest fires in the state's history with 9,177 incidents, about 4.4 million acres of burned land, 10,488 damaged or destroyed structures, and 31 lives lost and billions of dollars of damage.

Federal assistance to provide relief to those impacted by these devastating fires has been slow to reach those in need. In the aftermath of the 2017 wildfires, it took nearly four years for assistance to reach impacted communities. That's too long to wait. AB 1945 would speed up assistance by providing funding to Community Development Financial Institutions – mission-driven lenders with a track record of quickly deploying resources to communities in need – who could make loans in advance of federal dollars being approved. When federal dollars arrive, they would repay the initial CDFI loan, making those funds available again for a subsequent disaster. By creating a revolving fund that can be deployed multiple times in response to disaster, AB 1945 bridges the gap created by slow federal relief dollars, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Your name and title