

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1323
(SCHIFF/SHEEHY) – THE FIREWALL ACT

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the issuance of letters of support for Senate Bill 1323, the Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization, and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act, submitted to Senator Alex Padilla and Senator Adam Schiff.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On May 29, 2025, the City submitted letters to Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla in support of S. 1323, known as the FIREWALL Act. This bipartisan legislation, co-authored by Senators Schiff and Sheehy, proposes a refundable federal tax credit of up to \$25,000 for qualified disaster mitigation expenditures undertaken by homeowners.

The Act aims to proactively reduce the impact of natural disasters—such as floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and earthquakes—by encouraging preventative retrofits and structural improvements to residential properties. Eligible expenditures include structural reinforcements, wildfire buffers, fire-resistant roofing, and flood control measures. The bill targets communities located in federally declared disaster zones or designated Community Disaster Resilience Zones.

The ad hoc City Council Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs, comprised of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, reviewed and approved the issuance of the letters in advance of the City Council's formal ratification.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support for S. 1323, Schiff
2. Letter of Support for S. 1323, Padilla
3. Bill Text – S. 1323 (FIREWALL Act)