



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 1323, the Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization, and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act

Dear Senator Schiff,

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I write to express our strong support for S. 1323, the Facilitating Increased Resilience, Environmental Weatherization, and Lowered Liability (FIREWALL) Act. This timely and vital legislation offers much-needed tools to enhance public safety and strengthen community resilience in the face of growing threats from natural disasters.

As a desert city situated near the San Andreas Fault and increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events, Palm Desert has firsthand experience with the urgent need for proactive mitigation. The widespread flooding caused by Tropical Storm Hilary in 2023 vividly illustrated the risks facing inland communities and highlighted the necessity of investing in resilient infrastructure and housing solutions.

S. 1323's proposal to establish a refundable tax credit for disaster mitigation expenditures would empower homeowners to undertake critical retrofits that enhance structural safety. By incentivizing preventive action, the bill will help reduce long-term recovery costs, promote housing stability, and curb rising insurance premiums—benefits that are essential to communities like ours. These goals align with Palm Desert's core priorities of public safety, fiscal stewardship, and sustainable development.

We appreciate your leadership—alongside Senator Sheehy's—in introducing this bipartisan legislation. We respectfully urge your colleagues in Congress to support S. 1323 as a strategic and forward-looking investment in community protection and resilience.

Thank you for your attention to this important legislation and for your continued support of communities like Palm Desert.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik, Mayor
City of Palm Desert