

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Monique Limon  
State Capitol, Room 6031  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 486 (Limon) – Disaster Preparedness: local government: animal wildfire evacuation plan – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Limon:

I write to thank you for authoring Assembly Bill 486, which, where a city or county requires a permit to keep an animal within its jurisdiction, requires an animal owner as a condition for obtaining the permit to create and submit an animal evacuation plan.

In 2017 and 2018 California experienced catastrophic wildfires of historic proportion devastating both Northern and Southern California. The disaster, among other things, tragically highlighted the serious need for preparing and executing evacuation plans for animals. In the chaos of wildfire, animals were, and will be left to suffer and perish, in the absence of pre-planning by their owners. Furthermore, when animals are not evacuated by their owners, first responders and “good Samaritans” are put in danger while trying to save those animals.

The sheltering and protection of animals is the primary responsibility of their owners. As the effects of climate change worsen, wildfires are expected to occur more often, and with greater ferocity. This is our new normal.

Unfortunately, we learned from the recent wildfires that people are unprepared to protect their animals, as thousands died unable to escape. Having a plan in place, increases the chance that animals will be saved in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

AB 486 will take an important step in reducing the tragic loss of life to animals as a result of natural disasters and I urge your colleagues in the legislature to vote “aye” on this important measure.

Sincerely,