

April 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
President Pro Tempore  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
Speaker of the Assembly  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 306

Dear President Pro Tem Senator McGuire and Speaker Rivas,

On behalf of the City of Eureka and the Eureka City Council, I am writing to express opposition to AB 306. As currently drafted, this bill would prevent any updates to California's residential construction requirements that are not specifically related to wildfire home hardening, adaptive reuse, water reuse, single-stair proposals, or changes classified as "emergency standards" for nearly a decade.

California is facing a significant housing and insurance availability and affordability crisis. Updating building codes can enhance housing affordability by integrating more cost-effective construction methods and new technologies. These updates can lead to reduced disaster losses, lower insurance costs, decreased default risks, and smaller utility bills.

Model building codes are revised every three years to keep pace with technological advancements, improvements in building science, and best practices learned from past disasters. These codes introduce new, cost-saving materials and techniques while also implementing vital safety measures, such as protection against windborne debris and wildfire risks, updated loading requirements to safeguard structures from wind, rain, and earthquakes, and elevating structures and critical systems to prevent flood damage.

According to a report from Home Innovation Research Labs for the National Association of Homebuilders, the 2024 International Residential Code could save homeowners as much as \$2,200. AB 306 would hinder the state's ability to capture these benefits.

AB 306 may undermine the implementation of essential building code changes aimed at addressing climate change by temporarily limiting local governments' ability to modify building standards for residential units.



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I oppose AB 306 because it could jeopardize building safety and resilience, hinder efforts to combat climate change, and restrict the state's ability to adopt alternative, cost-saving updates.

Sincerely,

Kim Bergel  
Mayor  
City of Eureka