

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 7240
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4004

DISTRICT OFFICES
1020 15TH STREET, SUITE 21
MODESTO, CA 95354
TEL (209) 576-6001

4364 TOWN CENTER BLVD., SUITE 313
EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762
TEL (916) 933-8680

California State Senate

SENATOR
MARIE ALVARADO-GIL, M.P.A.
FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
VICE CHAIR
REVENUE AND TAXATION
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JOINT COMMITTEE
FAIRS ALLOCATION
AND CLASSIFICATION



August 28, 2026

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
1021 O Street, 9th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Signature AB 2129 (Flora)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request your signature on AB 2129, which would help California recruit and retain CAL FIRE firefighters by aligning their compensation with comparable local departments through collective bargaining.

AB 2129 requires the state to bargain in good faith with rank-and-file state firefighters who are members of Bargaining Unit 8 to reach a competitive range within 15% of the average salary for corresponding ranks in 20 California fire departments agreed to by both the state and the union. The state and Bargaining Unit 8 would jointly survey estimated average salaries of those departments and report the findings to the Legislature and the public. Any salary adjustment contemplated by the bill may be implemented only through a memorandum of understanding negotiated between the state and Bargaining Unit 8 and ratified by the Legislature. Nothing in the bill creates entitlement to an automatic increase.

This is a common-sense measure that promotes parity and more competitive wages for the men and women who protect California from wildfires and other emergencies. It builds on existing survey requirements while ensuring that any resulting changes go through collective bargaining and legislative ratification.

For these reasons I respectfully request you sign AB 2129. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

MARIE ALVARADO-GIL
Senator, Fourth District