

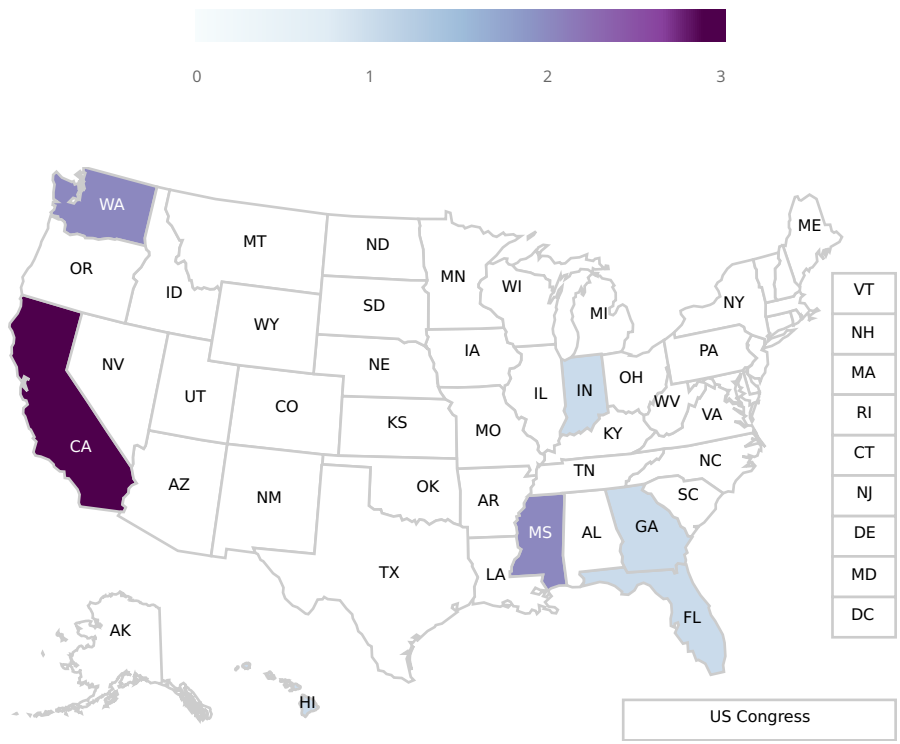


Monthly Activity Report

This is a representative list of the actions and interactions taken on behalf of the Build With Strength campaign and its members (including NRMCA).

Please direct any questions to John Loyer
NRMCA Vice President of State and Local Government Affairs
jloyer@nrmca.org

Bills by State



Bill State: CA (3)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
CA	AB 2518	In Assembly	Oppose

Title

Innovative forest products and mass timber.

Primary Sponsors

Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry

Bill Summary:

This bill orders the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to "explore markets, including export markets, for milling, development, and expansion of innovative forest products and mass timber." It does not specify a date by which the department must publish a report, or any guidelines, budget, or desired results of this "exploration." It authorizes the department to collaborate with other governmental agencies and with private entities such as apprenticeship programs and community colleges.

Last Team Action:

State affiliate sent a letter of opposition to the the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on 3/28/2018 and to the primary sponsor on 3/29/2018. Build With Strength sent written testimony on 4/3/2018. Both opposed the bill on the following grounds: 1. There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that cutting dead and small-diameter trees is ineffective in reducing the risk of wildfires, which are mostly dependent upon weather patterns. Increasing the state's sawmill capacity will not accomplish the state fire safety objectives. 2. Mass timber is a combustible fire risk, especially for wildfires, and the stimulus of mass timber building proposed in this bill would expose residents of those buildings to the risk of displacement, injury, or death.

Introduction Date: 2018-02-14

State
CA

Bill Number
AB 2842

Status
In Assembly

Position
Oppose

Title
Wood products.

Primary Sponsors
Frank Bigelow

Bill Summary:

This bill creates the California Wood Innovations Small Grants Program under the Governor's Office of Business (GO-Biz), with a \$20 million budget for grants and loans to "entities that expand the use of wood products and increase in-state wood product processing and manufacturing". Grants are available to research, development, and demonstration projects. Loans are available to sawmill facility creation, expansion, and equipment procurement. This bill justifies the need for this program with claims that the state does not currently have the in-state sawmill capacity to process timber that results from forest management projects. These forest management projects mainly aim to cut dead and small-diameter trees away from dense forests, which proponents claim reduces the risk of wildfires.

Last Team Action:

State affiliate sent a letter of opposition to the primary sponsor on 3/29/2018. Build With Strength sent written testimony on 4/3/2018. Both opposed the bill on the following grounds: 1. There is an overwhelming scientific consensus that cutting dead and small-diameter trees is ineffective in reducing the risk of wildfires, which are mostly dependent upon weather patterns. Increasing the state's sawmill capacity will not accomplish the state fire safety objectives. 2. Mass timber is a combustible fire risk, especially for wildfires, and the stimulus of mass timber building proposed in this bill would expose residents of those buildings to the risk of displacement, injury, or death.

Introduction Date: 2018-02-16

State
CA

Bill Number
AB 2911

Status
In Assembly

Position
Support

Title
Fire safety.

Primary Sponsors
Laura Friedman

Bill Summary:

This bill would require the State Fire Marshal, no later than January 31, 2020, in consultation with the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Director of Housing and Community Development, to recommend updated building standards that provide for comprehensive site and structure fire risk reduction. For existing buildings, they must recommend low-cost retrofits to prevent the spread of fires to structures from nearby vegetation. "Structure" fire risk reduction recommendations are not outlined in the bill, except that they may include "building design and construction requirements that use fire resistant building materials," and standards to reduce the risk of ignition on projections and openings. "Site" fire risk reduction retrofits are outlined in the bill, and require removal of flammable vegetation and fuel sources near structures.

Next Team Action:

Build With Strength delivered written testimony in support to the bill to the Assemble Local Government Committee.

Introduction Date: 2018-02-16

Bill State: FL (1)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
FL	HB 299	Failed	Oppose
Title Florida Building Commission		Bill Summary: This bill would have reduced the Florida Building Commission from 27 to 11 members. It would have removed some positions key to the industry, such as several municipal- and county-level building code and fire officials, a LEED-accredited green building representative, and a representative of the building products industry.	
Primary Sponsors Stanley E. McClain Jr.		Last Team Action: Build With Strength brought this bill to the attention of the state affiliate, who testified in opposition before the Senate Technology and Commerce Committee. The bill was withdrawn from consideration by its primary sponsor.	
		Introduction Date: 2017-10-11	

Bill State: GA (1)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
GA	HB 876	Passed Senate	Oppose
Title Buildings and housing; counties and municipalities proscribing the use of wood in the construction of certain buildings when state minimum standard codes are met; prohibit		Bill Summary: This bill would bar municipalities from banning wood construction in buildings that would otherwise meet statewide codes. It would reverse Sandy Springs' ordinance banning wood buildings above 3 stories, and prevent other, similar ordinances in the future.	
Primary Sponsors John L. Corbett, John Chadwick Nimmer, Alfred Jackson Powell Jr., Terry Lamar England, Thomas Allen McCall, Dominic Francis LaRiccia, John K. Wilkinson		Last Team Action: Build With Strength has retained legislative counsel in an effort to obtain gubernatorial veto. We are considering amicus support of a possible lawsuit brought by municipalities who wish to retain their home rule, per the Georgia state constitution.	
		Introduction Date: 2018-02-12	

Bill State: HI (1)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
HI	SB 3006	In House	Oppose
Title Relating To Building Codes.		Bill Summary: This bill would mandate the state building code council to create an alternative to the state building code for public buildings, which must be more “cost-effective” than the current code. The new, alternative code “must not negatively affect the performance of the project or public safety and health.” Despite this requirement, this bill can easily be used to discount durability, energy efficiency, and life cycle costs in favor of first costs or short term savings. In its current form, the bill will not take effect until July 1, 2050. However, this could be amended to a closer date.	
Primary Sponsors Donna A. Mercado Kim, Rosalyn H. Baker, Jamie Kalani English, William C. Espero, Joshua B. Green, Lorraine Rodero Inouye, Gilbert S.Coloma Keith-Agaran		Last Team Action: The state affiliate has publicly indicated opposition. The Hawaii State Building Code Council (SBCC) has unanimously indicated opposition for the above reasons.	
		Introduction Date: 2018-01-24	

Bill State: IN (1)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
IN	SB 393	Enacted	Support
Title Safety notice of advanced structural buildings.		Bill Summary: Requires an individual applying for a building permit for a Class 1 or Class 2 structure after June 30, 2018, to disclose the use of advanced structural components on the building permit application. Requires the building commissioner to notify the local fire department and local 911 call center of a Class 1 or Class 2 structure's use of advanced structural components not later than 90 days after issuing a building permit.	
Primary Sponsors Doug Eckerty, James Tomes, Erin Houchin, Lonnie M. Randolph Jr., Timothy S. Lanane, Jon Ford, Ronald J. Alting, Jim Pressel, Randall L. Frye, Dan Forestal, Charles A. Moseley		Last Team Action: Build With Strength brought this bill to the attention of the state affiliate, who formed a coalition and testified in favor of this bill in two committee hearings: 1. Senate Commerce and Technology Committee on 1/25/2018 2. Senate Veterans’ Affairs and Public Safety on 2/13/2018	
		Introduction Date: 2018-01-08	

Bill State: MS (2)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
MS	HB 887	Enacted	Support
Title Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program; extend repealer on.		Bill Summary: This bill extends the "Comprehensive Hurricane Damage Mitigation Program" through July 1, 2021. It was set to expire July 1, 2018. The program funds home retrofitting for hurricane resilience through multiple methods. 1. It funds home inspection and certification of retrofits, which allows owners to qualify for other state programs such as tax rebates. 2. It authorizes direct financial grants to home and building owners to retrofit their buildings for hurricane resistance. The program also funds education and consumer awareness.	
Primary Sponsors Jason Mark White		Last Team Action: Build With Strength met with the state insurance commissioner in fall 2017, who put the bill forth to the legislature. Build With Strength also assisted the state affiliate with testimony in favor of the bill.	
		Introduction Date: 2018-01-11	

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
MS	SB 2465	Enacted	Support
Title Homeowners insurance; require premium discount for new home tornado mitigation construction in any county.		Bill Summary: This bill offers a state-wide tax rebate for residential properties built to the Fortified for Safer Living standard, to resist catastrophic windstorms. This was originally available in only the five southernmost counties in the state (Harrison, Hancock, Jackson, Stone, and Pearl River counties).	
Primary Sponsors Fredie Videt Carmichael		Last Team Action: Build With Strength met with the state insurance commissioner in fall 2017, who put the bill forth to the legislature. Build With Strength also assisted the state affiliate with testimony in favor of the bill.	
		Introduction Date: 2018-01-15	

Bill State: WA (2)

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
WA	HB 2320	Failed sine die	Support
Title Concerning the creation of a work group to study and make recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency activities.		Bill Summary: This bill would have created a working group to study the scope of existing disaster mitigation and resiliency efforts, and make recommendations to the legislature regarding the need for new resiliency measures. Wildfires were highlighted as a major and worsening natural disaster to which mitigation and resiliency efforts must respond. SB 6036 was a companion bill in the Senate. This bill died after the legislature adjourned (sine die) on 03/08/2018.	
Primary Sponsors Kristine M. Reeves		Last Team Action: Build With Strength submitted written testimony to the bill's sponsors, and the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs Committee in support.	
		Introduction Date: 2017-12-22	

State	Bill Number	Status	Position
WA	SB 6109	Enacted	Support
Title Concerning the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.		Bill Summary: This bill adopts the ICC Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUIC). As originally filed, this bill made three major amendments that would limit the effectiveness of the code: 1. The bill removed fire sprinkler requirements from the WUIC. 2. The bill removed municipal-level planning required by the WUIC. 3. The bill removed requirements for the length of driveways, harming site-specific flexibility. The final version of the bill did not include these exceptions, and adopted the WUIC as-written, which is favorable to the industry.	
Primary Sponsors Kevin Van De Wege		Last Team Action: Build With Strength submitted written testimony to the bill's sponsors and the Senate State Government, Tribal Relations, and Elections Committee, which objected to the above amendments that weakened the code. The bill was amended by its sponsors to remove them and adopt the code as-written.	
		Introduction Date: 2018-01-05	

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