

Submitter: Jay Hennigan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3917

I am opposed to this bill. Electric utility providers know or should know the hazards involved with their business and act accordingly. The creation of a wildfire fund is an unnecessary burden if the utilities take the steps necessary to avoid starting wildfires in their normal course of business. Directly or indirectly the customers of the utility will be paying for this. If the utilities operate their facilities safely, they won't start fires.

In addition, the bill provides a loophole for utilities that do cause wildfires by allowing them to fill out a document stating that they won't start fires. Solely by filling out this document, they are assumed to be operating prudently when they do start fires. This is like allowing drunk drivers to promise not to drive drunk and allowing them to use that promise to avoid penalties when they cause accidents and severely limiting the damages that their victims can collect.

Please vote NO on this bill. It's a clear attempt by the utilities to avoid the consequences of their actions.