



March 15, 2024

Governor Hobbs
Office of Governor Katie Hobbs
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Urging Gov. Hobbs to Veto HB 2570

Dear Governor Hobbs:

The Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona and our nearly 8,000 members hold immense appreciation for your leadership and support in leading our state.

I write today to urge you to veto House Bill 2570. As passed, the measure presents multiple potential challenges to public safety throughout the state. For example, by severely restricting the ability of municipalities to regulate aspects of residential development such as setbacks, lot size, and lot coverage, the Act could lead to the creation of neighborhoods without adequate consideration for public safety infrastructure. In communities without proper setbacks and lot sizes, there might not be enough space for emergency vehicles to maneuver or for adequate fire breaks between properties in case of a wildfire.

The Act also prevents municipalities from requiring shared amenities and homeowners' associations, which can impact public safety in multiple ways. Shared amenities like community centers or swimming pools often serve as evacuation centers or gathering points during emergencies. Additionally, homeowners' associations often play a role in maintaining firebreaks, managing vegetation, and ensuring compliance with fire safety regulations.

We also recognize that allowing developers to determine density and housing types without consideration for existing residents or public infrastructure could strain resources and compromise safety. Increased density without corresponding improvements to roads, utilities, and emergency services could lead to traffic congestion during evacuations or delays in emergency response times, which, as you know, have been challenging for many of the state's largest fire departments.



Finally, by disregarding years' worth of urban planning efforts and public participation, the Act risks undermining comprehensive safety plans that have been developed with input from various stakeholders, including public safety agencies, residents, and elected leaders. Ignoring these plans could lead to inefficiencies in emergency response and mitigation efforts.

Given these potential impacts on public safety, our organization vehemently opposes HB2570. While we recognize that the state's housing crisis requires building more homes to meet Arizona's surging growth, HB 2570 is not the answer.

Thank you sincerely for your dedication and leadership to serve our state. If there's anything more I can offer or if you need assistance please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Don Jongewaard
President, Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona
Cell (480) 518-1796