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NEWS RELEASE



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District Attorney Erik Nasarenko Testifies in Support of AB 2075 to Strengthen Wildfire Prevention Laws

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko testified this week before the California State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources in support of Assembly Bill 2075 (AB 2075), legislation aimed at strengthening wildfire prevention laws and clarifying fire safety requirements during vegetation clearing operations.

AB 2075, authored by Assemblymember Steve Bennett and sponsored by District Attorney Nasarenko, was introduced in response to the 2024 Mountain Fire in Ventura County. That fire burned nearly 20,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of structures after a smaller vegetation fire, caused during a brush clearing effort, reignited days later due to lingering hot debris.

Subsequent investigation inspired a legislative effort to ensure the right firefighting tools are readily available during such operations.

During his testimony in Sacramento, District Attorney Nasarenko highlighted the bill's revisions that address gaps in current law that can delay or prevent effective fire suppression in the critical early moments of ignition.



District Attorney Erik Nasarenko testifies in support of AB 2075 during the April 13, 2026, California State Assembly Natural Resources Committee hearing.

“This legislation places the fire extinguishment equipment at the ignition source,” District Attorney Nasarenko told the committee. “Rather than the driver of a tractor having to go and retrieve a shovel or fire extinguisher, it would be right there in the tractor or affixed to it.”

The proposed legislation establishes clear, consistent standards requiring that basic fire suppression tools, such as shovels and fire extinguishers, be either attached to or in a motor

vehicle while performing brush clearance. Workers on foot utilizing power tools must also have a fire extinguisher within 25 feet and a sufficient amount of shovels. The bill also clarifies that both individuals and companies conducting vegetation clearing operations are responsible for complying with fire safety requirements. Companies are often best positioned to ensure adherence and the bill's goal is compliance and wildfire prevention, not misdemeanor prosecution.

“With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires, California needs clarity regarding who to hold accountable when an accidental fire breaks out during an outdoor operation,” Assemblymember Bennett said. “AB 2075 sailed through Assembly Natural Resources committee with unanimous, bipartisan support for this commonsense measure to protect workers and guarantee justice for victims of wildfires.”

The bill passed unanimously out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on a 14-0 vote as amended and will now be re-referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee.