

McGuire's bill to expedite the undergrounding of PG&E lines clears the Senate

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Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire's urgent bill, SB 884, that will safeguard communities and save lives by expediting the undergrounding of electric utility lines in California's highest fire risk zones, passed on the Senate floor last week.

"For far too long, America's largest utility – PG&E – has failed its customers and made California unsafe," McGuire said. "For years, the utility underfunded modernization and wildfire safety efforts, which has had devastating impacts. The only path forward is to move power lines underground in the most high fire risk regions. SB 884 will save lives and ratepayers money. We're grateful for the overwhelming support in the Senate this week."

Undergrounding electric lines reduces the likelihood of fires starting by 99% and will vastly reduce carbon emissions by stopping mega fires before they start. SB 884 will expedite the undergrounding of 10,000 miles of utility lines, while saving ratepayers money by using federal infrastructure funds. Currently, PG&E only undergrounds approximately 100 miles of their electrical lines annually.

"Year after year, these utility-caused wildfires have become our reality. This insanity must be stopped for the health and safety of all Californians," said Senator McGuire. "We'll be working day and night to get this critical legislation passed."

