

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, U.S. Capitol

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1026 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

As you work through appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2021, we ask you to replenish and increase funding for accounts integral to wildfire response and recovery in any upcoming spending package. We also respectfully urge you to consider passing a disaster supplemental.

The number and scale of fires burning in Oregon, Washington, California, and other western states is unprecedented and demands federal support and sustained federal funding to protect and rebuild communities. Due to climate change and an unfortunate combination of droughts, a lack of proper forest management, dry forest conditions, windstorms, and dry fuel loads, horrific fires are raging across the West, burning through millions of acres of lands. These devastating fires have destroyed homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, wildlife and their habitats, high value timber lands, and lands of significant Tribal importance. In Oregon, roughly ten percent of the population remains under evacuation orders. California has seen one of these fires become the largest in state history and five other 2020 fires have made their way into the top 20. And fires have burned through nearly 800,000 acres in Washington state, the size of roughly 15 Seattles.

First responders and firefighters are working around the clock to contain these fires and respond to the immediate needs of local communities. But states are distressingly low on funds in light of the ongoing global coronavirus pandemic. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal partners have mobilized to assist states, more work remains as communities begin to assess and understand the scope of damages to properties and natural resources. Congress has previously acted in the aftermath of wildfires to provide federal relief, and accordingly, we ask that you make funds available for necessary wildfire response and recovery, including but not limited to the following programs:

- FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (*DRF*)
- FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (*AFG*)
- FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (*FP&S*)
- FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Program (*SAFER*)

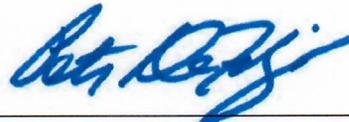
- FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants Program (*FMAG*)
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program
- Economic Development Administration Grants
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Farm Service Agency's Disaster Assistance Program
- USDA Farm Service Agency's Emergency Forest Restoration Program
- USDA United States Forest Service Wildland Fire Management
- USDA United States Forest Service Forest and Rangeland Research
- USDA United States Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program
- USDA United States Forest Service National Forest System
- USDA United States Forest Service Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes
- USDA United States Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Program
- Department of Labor's Dislocated Workers Assistance National Reserve
- Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund

We thank you for your consideration of our urgent request.

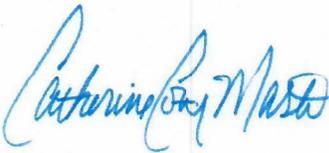
Sincerely,



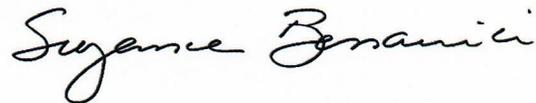
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



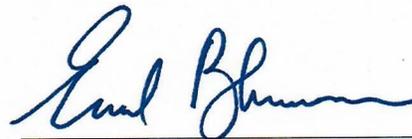
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/ Martin Heinrich

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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



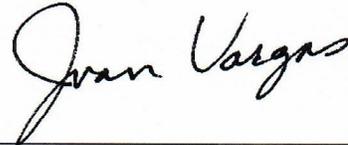
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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



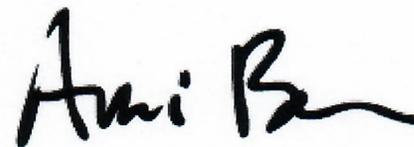
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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



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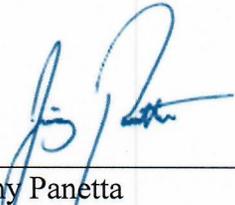
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



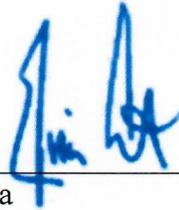
Julia Brownley  
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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



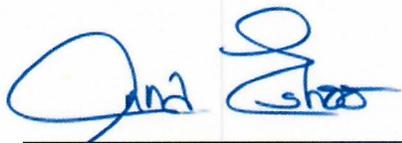
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



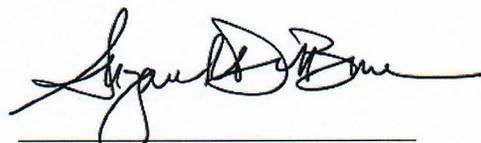
Tom O'Halleran  
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Ro Khanna  
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



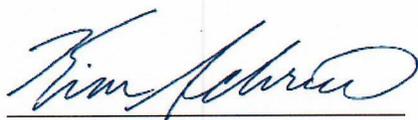
Suzan DelBene  
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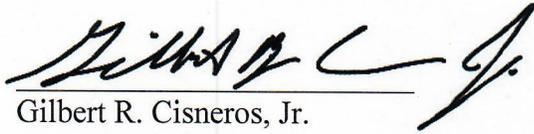
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



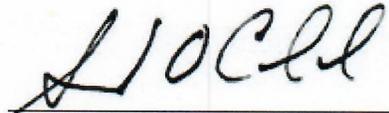
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



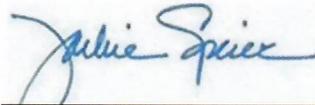
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



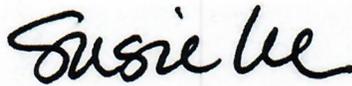
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Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



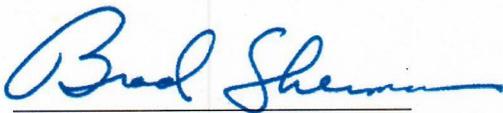
Jared Huffman  
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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress