

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 2, 2018

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

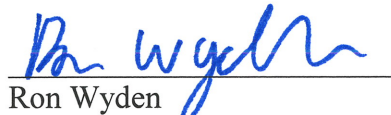
We are writing in support of Oregon Governor Brown's request and very much encourage a formal Secretarial Disaster Designation for Sherman, Wasco and Jefferson counties, as well as contiguous counties. As you are well aware, having worked with us over the years on wildfire funding, the effects of fires can be devastating on these rural landscapes and deliver a significant economic blow to rural agricultural producers and businesses.

Fires are still raging in Oregon, on public and private lands, with dedicated volunteers and firecrews working diligently to protect life and property. The full tally of losses related to these fires, including the Substation and Long Hollow Fires in Wasco and Sherman counties that have burned more than 100,000 acres, has yet to be compiled. The Secretarial Disaster Designation will allow farmers and local businesses to apply for emergency loans, insurance relief and other assistance.

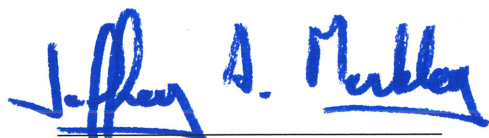
In addition, as Governor Brown has requested, we ask that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) use its authority to allow emergency grazing and haying of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to mitigate existing forage losses as a result of these natural disasters.

We thank you in advance for your expedited review of Governor Brown's disaster designation request. We look forward to working with you to help agricultural producers recover and rebuild from these unprecedented fires.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator