



August 4, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Member, United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to offer our support for The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020. RCRC has continually advocated for a commonsense approach toward reducing the effects and severity of wildfires that have plagued California over the past decade. This bill would work to accomplish this objective by reducing wildfire risk in federal forests, involving the private sector in addressing dead and dying trees, improving best practices for addressing wildfire, and creating more resilient communities and energy grids. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

As you know, California has encountered unprecedented wildfire activity over the past decade. RCRC member counties, which contain more than 70 percent of the State's forested lands, have historically suffered the vast majority of these fires. In the past two decades, the U.S. Forest Service has been forced to shift away from fire prevention and forest health activities to focus more and more of their limited resources on fire suppression. Ultimately, this system has created a large backlog of needed prevention and forest health projects that have gone, and continue to go, unfunded.

Through coordination with initiatives such as the Golden State Natural Resources, this legislation will help alleviate and offset some of the costs associated with forest management and aid California in reducing its carbon emissions by encouraging utilization and sequestration of woody byproducts that currently are being piled and burned or otherwise left to contribute to the state's greenhouse gas inventory. The legislation will also ultimately serve to help California with its long-term fuels treatment goals, which is desperately needed to reduce the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfires that have become a normal occurrence throughout the state.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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RCRC is pleased to lend its support to the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 as a means to address California's continued fuels backlog on federal lands. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sheaton@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

STACI HEATON
Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: The Honorable Kamala Harris, Member of the U.S. Senate
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Garamendi, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom McClintock, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Doris Matsui, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Cook, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Costa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable TJ Cox, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Devin G. Nunes, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Salud Carbajal, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Juan C. Vargas, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives