



City Council
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California 95678

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Member of Congress
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Wildfire Suppression – Support

Dear Congressman McClintock:

On behalf of our community, I am writing to express our support of your Wildfire Suppression bill. Wildfires have become a devastating and deadly occurrence throughout the state in recent years. Unfortunately, California continues to experience longer wildfire seasons as a direct result of extended dry conditions with above normal temperatures that leave fuel moisture levels lower than normal, which increases the potential for wildland fire activity. These catastrophic events have led to loss of life, property and untold losses to businesses throughout the state. Wildfires, and the economic disruption they cause, have a massive economic impact on our region and it is imperative that the federal response to fires on National Forrest System lands are handled effectively and in a timely manner.

California is still contending with the aftermath of the extensive damage caused by the disturbing wildfires that have burned millions of acres and destroyed thousands of structures. Exactly how much these fires will cost and how long it will take the state to recover from the significant damage to property, infrastructure and natural landscapes still remains to be seen. It is essential that proactive steps are taken to reduce the risks and costs to the state and local governments.

Two critical elements of effective response to fires on National Forest System lands are cooperation between fire agencies and coordinated wildfire suppression practices. During a fire, the interaction between the US Forrest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire-State) and local fire agencies such as Placer County Fire is essential to a successful response to a fire. Unfortunately, over the years we have encountered US Forest Service fire management issues that were not aligned with Cal Fire-State forest management practices. These events are problematic and can lead to more devastating fires. Furthermore, the US Forest Service's inability to manage controlled burns that get out of control and result in their request for support from State and local agencies has been an issue for years. These situations result in keeping local and State government assets at fires for longer than needed, which can have significant financial implications for both State and local governments.

For the sake of California's wildfire victims, we should all expect the state and federal governments to work together to ensure they have the resources and support needed to respond to these fires. We should also expect similar cooperation in proactively managing forests and reducing fuels to help prevent costly devastation in the future. It is for these reasons that the City of Roseville supports your legislation regarding suppression of wildfires.

Please contact Mark Wolinski, Government Relations Administrator at mwolinski@roseville.ca.us or 916.774.5179 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', is written over a horizontal line.

Krista Bernasconi,
Mayor

cc: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group
Jason Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves and Son