



United States Senate

September 1, 2020

Honorable Brian K. Veerkamp
El Dorado County

Dear Chairman Veerkamp,

I am writing to ask El Dorado County to support S. 4431, the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, a bill I introduced with my colleague, Senator Steve Daines of Montana, to help communities better prepare for and respond to wildfires. This bill could have a hearing in the next two or three weeks, so your support at this time is critical.

Like many western states, California continues to experience severe wildfires, which have only been exacerbated by rising temperatures and the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Already this year, we have seen two of the largest wildfires in our state's history, more than 1.4 million acres burned, over 1,500 homes destroyed and seven deaths.

The "Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act" (S. 4431) would provide federal agencies with critical new tools to reduce hazardous fuels, protect communities, and support forestry jobs, biomass development, and smarter energy practices. This bill is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement, outreach across party lines, and months of deliberations to ensure a truly bipartisan, pragmatic approach to reduce the risk of wildfire. Attached, please find further information about the bill.

If we don't take strong action, I worry that what's happening will soon become the new normal not just in California but in other states as well. I urge you to join me in supporting this bill to make wildfire protection a priority and make our communities safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator