



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

June 25, 2009

The Honorable Ron Briggs
Chairman, County of El Dorado
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667

Dear Chairman Briggs,

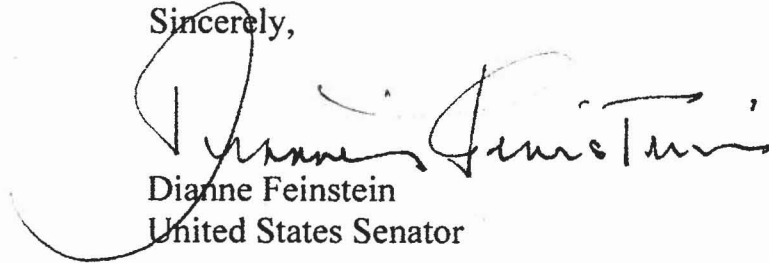
I write to thank you for your June 2, 2009 letter concerning fuels reduction projects in California's National Forests. I share your concerns about the state of our forests and I am happy to provide you with an update on how I am working to address the problem within the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior Appropriations bill.

On June 25, 2009, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies met to mark-up the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill. The bill provides \$338,959,000 for forest products programs and \$350,285,000 for hazardous fuels reduction projects. These amounts are \$10 and \$35 million above the President's FY 2010 respective requests.

Additionally, the Senate version of the Interior Appropriations bill includes language that would require the U.S. Forest Service to use funding increases to implement timber sales and stewardship contracts in regions where recently closed and at-risk mills could benefit. If enacted, it is my hope that this direction would help fund additional work in the areas around Quincy, Sonora, Camino and other impacted communities that would increase the supply of wood to a level where mills are able to operate profitably, facilitating a successful hazardous fuels reduction strategy and creating or saving hundreds of jobs in the State.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this important issue. Please know that I will be working to address your needs as we move through this year's appropriations process, and that I will greatly value your continued input on the matter.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/dr