



July 30, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing in strong support of your efforts to enact the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020. As we prepare for another potentially devastating fire season, we appreciate your leadership in moving legislation that will significantly boost our efforts to protect the health of California's forests and rural communities.

As you know, California is blessed with 33 million acres of forestland that provide a broad range of environmental and economic benefits. But decades of fire exclusion, coupled with the recent drought and rising temperatures, have dramatically increased the size and intensity of wildfires, and threaten progress toward meeting the state's long-term climate goals.

To address these threats, this bipartisan legislation would provide funding for several of the state's highest forest management priorities, including development of landscape-scale forest management plans, collaborative efforts to expand use of prescribed burning, and expedited environmental reviews in emergency situations. This legislation also authorizes a new workforce development program to prepare Americans for growing jobs in this sector, which is more important than ever given current levels of unemployment.

The legislation would also strengthen our growing partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies in addressing the risk of wildfires and improving the health and resilience of our forests and communities. Through good neighbor agreements and other interagency efforts, we are increasingly partnering with the federal agencies to achieve our shared forest and watershed management goals throughout the state.

Finally, the legislation would also increase funding for important weatherization and distributed energy systems. These programs are essential to create more resilient communities at risk from wildfire.

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Thank you again for your continued leadership in protecting the health of our forests and the safety of our communities through this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Crowfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for California Natural Resources Agency