

United States Senate

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chair Leahy, and Vice Chair Shelby:

As you prepare a disaster supplemental funding package, we urge you to include at least \$7.7 billion and targeted tax relief as requested by the State of California to support wildfire response and recovery efforts.

So far this year, the Western United States has faced historically large fires. In California, more than 2 million acres have burned, and the three largest fires – the Dixie, Caldor, and River fires – have burned 1.2 million acres alone. At the peak of these fires, over 15,000 firefighters were deployed and more than 50,000 residents were evacuated in response to the Caldor Fire. To date, almost 3,000 structures have been destroyed, including 1,842 homes.

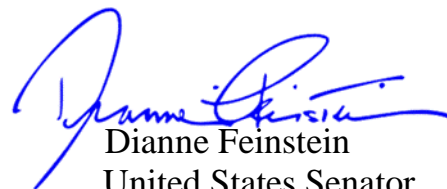
California is employing all of the resources at its disposal to combat these fires, but the explosion of fire activity this season has resulted in an immense strain on California's resources, and it is impossible for the State and local governments to obtain the necessary resources to adequately support survivors and recovery efforts. The immense size and scope of this year's wildfire season requires federal support.

Therefore, we urge you to include in upcoming disaster supplemental funding legislation California's request for \$7.7 billion and targeted tax relief to support recovery efforts related to the historic and devastating 2021 wildfire season.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Enclosure: Request Letter from CalOES Director Mark Ghilarducci, September 16, 2021