



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 14, 2020

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

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your tremendous leadership in supporting the state in helping us combat our wildfires. I write to express my support of your bipartisan legislation, the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020.

As you are aware, California is on the front lines of a catastrophic wildfire emergency and climate crisis. With over three million acres burned and six of the twenty largest fires in our State's history in 2020 alone, federal leadership and investment is paramount. We urgently need federal resources to match the scale of this current and unprecedented crisis in California's forests, 58% of which are managed by federal agencies.

The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 would bolster the State's emergency response to wildfires burning in California and support impacted residents across the state by advancing needed fire resilience efforts. This includes scaling efforts to harden communities to withstand a fire, build strategic fuel breaks for firefighters to take a stand against an oncoming fire, and restore the health of our forests and ecosystems to return to their natural state of fire resilience. Additionally, this legislation expands beneficial efforts to meet the current needs of our economy and environment through the creation of a new workforce development program for environmental sector jobs; by fostering private sector investment; and finding destinations for woody biomass utilization for climate change mitigation. I am pleased that this legislation would also strengthen our recently secured 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 statewide.

Thank you again for your continued leadership in meeting California's urgent need to safeguard the safety of our communities and environment through this legislative effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California