

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Rogers

Chairman

House Armed Services Committee

2469 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith

Ranking Member

House Armed Services Committee

2264 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Smith, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

This year has marked a devastating fire season across the country. By October, roughly 66,000 fires have burned through more than 9 million acres, which is 132% and 141% of the 10-year average, respectively. The United States was classified at “preparedness level 5” – the highest level – for 48 consecutive days. As of the delivery of this letter, there are 1,614 firefighters and support personnel assigned to catastrophic incidents around the country. The cost of further inaction has become untenable.

This wildfire crisis is a significant – and growing – hazard to our military readiness and national security, endangering the safety of the American people, as well as the National Guard, Reserve forces, and other servicemen across the country. **We, as members seeking a comprehensive solution to this threat, write in strong support of including the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA), in the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) or any other moving vehicle, to ensure it becomes law by the end of this Congress.**

In August, several wildfires in eastern Washington state – near Fairchild Air Force Base – forced the evacuation of 60,000 people and destroyed 600 homes. In September, the Bunker Fire burned near one of our key military production hubs, threatening the weapons and munitions produced at Camden's Highland Industrial Park in Arkansas. Wildfire does not even have to directly encroach on installations to have implications for our military: between 2017 and 2021, the National Guard's man-hours spent fighting wildfires grew more than tenfold.

This crisis is also making life more expensive for Americans—the total costs of wildfires in the United States range between nearly \$400 billion to almost \$900 billion annually. These costs stem from damage to critical energy and communication infrastructure, damage to private property, and the costs of evacuation, reconstruction, and post-fire rehabilitation. For the federal government, the ten-year average of fire suppression costs is over \$2.5 billion and growing.

Wildfire mitigation before disaster strikes can help avoid the consequences of severe megafires, at a cost savings of \$3.75 in prevented damages for every \$1 spent. The Fix Our Forests Act

represents our best chance to realize those savings while improving forest health, streamlining wildfire mitigation, and defending communities across the country.

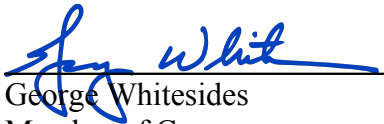
The Fix Our Forests Act is the only package that is bipartisan, bicameral, and has undergone a comprehensive committee process in both chambers of Congress. It represents thoughtful legislation that will meaningfully address the wildfire crisis.

We appreciate your leadership and attention to this matter, and we respectfully reiterate our request for the inclusion of this critical legislation in the Fiscal Year 2027 NDAA, or any other moving vehicle, so it becomes law this Congress; the wildfire crisis cannot wait.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



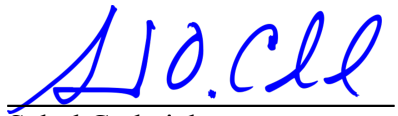
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



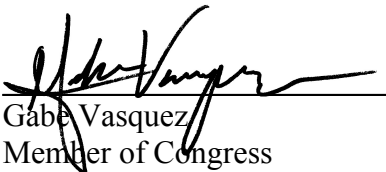
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



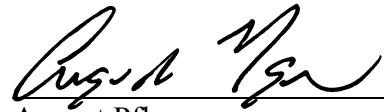
Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



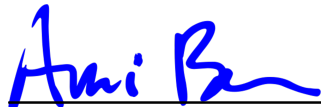
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



James Gallagher
Member of Congress



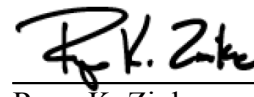
Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



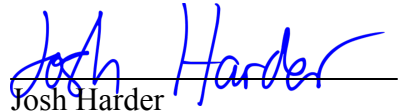
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

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Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Josh Harder, written in a cursive style.

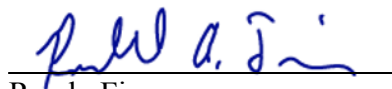
Josh Harder
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Dan Newhouse, written in a cursive style.

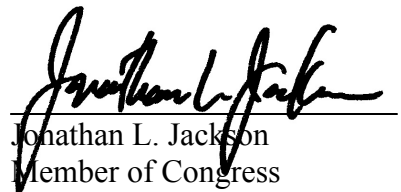
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Kim Schrier, written in a cursive style.

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Randy Fine, written in a cursive style.

Randy Fine
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Jonathan L. Jackson, written in a cursive style.

Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress