January 24, 2018

RE: URGENT NEED FOR CONGRESS TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE ISSUES

Dear California Delegation Member:

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) supports increasing the pace and scale of ecologically sound forest restoration practices that reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and insect and disease epidemics and promote healthier, more resilient forests. CAFWA's founding members include the Association of California Water Agencies, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Forestry Association, Rural County Representatives of California and The Nature Conservancy.

CAFWA members request that California delegation members contact their congressional leadership and encourage that wildfire legislation that includes both a comprehensive wildfire funding fix and broadly supported, bipartisan improvements in forest management be included in must pass budget legislation moving through Congress.

As we've unfortunately recently seen from destructive megafires, California forests, and other forests across the western United States, are at serious risk of large, high-severity wildfires that threaten lives, communities, water resources, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Our fire season is starting earlier and lasting longer with fires burning hotter than ever before. There is an urgent need to restore our forests to a more resilient condition to protect our water resources, communities, and ecological values.

Thank you for your attention to this request for urgent action on wildfire legislation.

Sincerely,

Tim Quinn, Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

Justin Caporusso, VP, External Affairs
Rural County Representatives of California

Erin Huston, Federal Policy Consultant
California Farm Bureau Federation

Rich Gordon, President
California Forestry Association

David Edelson, Sierra Nevada Project Director
The Nature Conservancy, California Chapter

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) is an urban-rural coalition representing water interests, local governments, the conservation community, agriculture, and the forestry sector, created to promote the restoration and improvement of California's forested watersheds. For more information, visit www.caforestsandwatersheds.org.