



# City of Oroville

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

David W Pittman  
Mayor

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Friday, March 17, 2023

Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

## RE: Letter of Support Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023

As a retired Firefighter of 35 years and now Current Mayor of City in the foothills of wildfire threat zone. I write to your support for my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1586 - the [Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023](#).

H.R. 1586 creates a Clean Water Act exemption for federal, state, local, and tribal firefighting agencies to use fire retardant to fight wildfires. As you know, fire retardant is an essential tool used to contain or slow the spread of wildfires. Currently the Forest Service and other agencies are operating under the assumption that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is not required for the use of fire retardant because the regulations specifically state that fire control is a "non-point source silvicultural activity" and communications from EPA dating back to 1993 indicated a permit is not required.

This bill is needed because an environmentalist group is [suing](#) the Forest Service under the Clean Water Act to require a NPDES permit to use fire retardant and they have requested an injunction on the use of fire retardant until the Forest Service receives this permit, which could take years. If the injunction is granted and fire retardant is not available for use in the 2023 fire year, firefighters and individuals living in forested communities would be in greater danger, and millions of acres of forested land and billions of dollars of infrastructure would be at risk.

I appreciate your consideration of this pressing concern. We must be able to fight wildfires with everything we have, and limiting firefighting agencies' ability to do so flies in the face of forest conservation and our mission to protect nearby residents. Congressman Doug LaMalfa has garnered bipartisan support throughout Congress. and was joined in introduction by the following Members of Congress: Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), John Duarte (R-CA), Russ Fulcher (R-ID), Tom McClintock (R-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA), Austin Scott (R-GA), Amata Radewagen (R-AS), Troy Nehls (R-TX), Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Rick Crawford (R-AR), Young Kim (R-CA), Ryan Zinke (R-MT), Blake Moore (R-UT), Burgess Owens (R-UT), Mike Simpson (R-ID), Trent Kelly (R-MS), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Pete Stauber (R-MN), Darrell Issa (R-CA), Mary Miller (R-IL), Kevin Kiley (R-CA), Matt Rosendale (R-MT), Jim Costa (D-CA), Jay Obernolte (R-CA), and Harriet Hagerman (R-WY).

Please refer questions or letters of support to [Alexandra.Lavy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alexandra.Lavy@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Doug LaMalfa Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

David W Pittman  
Mayor, City of Oroville

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Page 1