

US Representative Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

March 17, 2023

Subject: Support for HR 1586, Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023

Dear Representative LaMalfa,

We are pleased to announce International Wildfire Consulting Group's support for HR 1586, Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and that the legislation has strong bi-partisan support.

In October 2007, the USFS issued an environmental assessment and decision notice and finding of no significant impact, entitled "Aerial Application of Fire Retardant". From 2007 to 2010 significant work and policies have been engaged Nationally to ensure the safe use of retardants.

The use of retardant is a vital tool that our firefighters need to have at their disposal. Providing a Clean Water Act exemption so that federal, state, local, and tribal firefighting agencies can continue to use fire retardant is necessary to keep this tool available. Our fire prone communities are at risk every year from the threat of wildfire. It is critical for the survival of our communities, forests, and safety of fire crew members to utilize retardant when deemed necessary. We have seen time and again, using retardant slows the spread of fire, protects homes, infrastructure, and communities by reducing fire intensity and creating anchor points to assist fire crews in controlling unwanted fire.

It is imperative that we maintain our ability to fight wildfires safely, and effectively. Limiting firefighting agencies' ability to do so slow fires will harm forest conservation, endangered species protection, historic sites and watershed preservation, and our mission to protect nearby residents and public health.

Whether dropped from a plane, sprayed from a tanker truck, or hand applied by private homeowners, retardant is a tool that keeps our communities safe and our watersheds from being destroyed from damaging catastrophic wildfires. In the wildland - urban interface, we need this tool to protect critical infrastructure and human life. We support your efforts on HR 1586. For any questions, please contact Dan Reese at Dan@intwgc.com

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Reese".