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March 21, 2023

The Honorable Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)  
408 Cannon H.O.B  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Calforests Support for H.R. 1586**

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

On behalf of California Forestry Association (Calforests) I am writing to express strong support of H.R. 1586, which would allow the continued use of fire retardant by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary Agriculture during fire protection activities.

Calforests is the preeminent trade association and advocate for the state's forest industry. Collectively, our members – private forestland owners – manage nearly 3.5 million acres of forest land throughout the state and operate nearly the entirety of the state's forest products infrastructure, including sawmills, veneer mills, and biomass power plants. As the steward of a significant portion of the state's forest lands, Calforests members have a vested interest in ensuring that the fire protection system remains intact and as effective as possible.

H.R. 1586 is a bipartisan effort to ensure that our wildland firefighters maintain all tactical advantages necessary during wildfire suppression activities to assure that protection of rural communities, rural economies and natural resources are protected. Even more so, H.R. 1586 will protect those that dedicate their lives to serving the people of the United States as wildland firefighters. The associated risk of any retraction of available tools to support wildfire suppression efforts during this time of crisis in California and beyond is simply untenable.

Again, Calforests expresses strong support and looks forward to continued work with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Matt Dias  
President and CEO, Calforests