

Tim Seeley

March 17, 2023

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

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

Dear Representative LaMalfa,

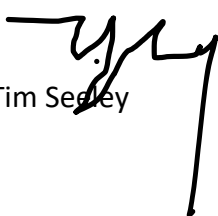
I am pleased to hear about your diligent navigation of HR 1586. As a registered Democrat, I crossed the aisle and voted for you in the last election, because I believe you are an exceptional steward of our environment as a multi-generational, successful Rice Farmer in Butte County. I trust your judgement to keep our precious natural resources safe. That is why I'm writing....to support HR 1586.

During this era of binary, all, or nothing legislation, I am hopeful all of us can recognize the need to battle wildfires more effectively. As a CAMP Fire victim of 2018, I know all too well how a small, localized fire can explode into an uncontrollable fire storm destroying everything in it's path.

This is the wrong time to limit the use of Fire Retardants as a tool in combating these wildfires. While it is imperative, we correct our forest management failures, we cannot remove tools (retardants) from our firefighting toolbox at this time. If one compares incidental use of air dropped retardants to minimize a wildfire vs the calamity of thousands of buildings, vehicles, and toxic materials going up in smoke, there is no comparison with the potential environmental destruction.

It is also encouraging to see private enterprise stepping up to mitigate past issues with the type of retardants used. Perhaps the "environmentalists" trying to sue can instead assist in removing the overabundance of fuels in our forests instead of closing the door on forest management. Locking the door on our forests does not make wildfire risk go away.

Best Regards,


Tim Seeley