

March 14, 2023



Statement from United Aerial Firefighters Association on Fire Retardant Lawsuit

The following statement from United Aerial Firefighters Association (UAFA) President John Gould reflects the opinion of its board of directors with respect to the ongoing retardant lawsuit between Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) vs. United States Forest Service, as well as a call for Congressional action:

“UAFA notes with increasing concern the potential for a federal court to impose a restraining order against the use of aerially applied fire retardant as early as this coming fire season. Fire retardant is a proven, essential tool in assisting wildland firefighters in their fight to contain, control and defeat wildfire. As this lawsuit continues, with the potential to run into its second year, UAFA strongly supports Congressman LaMalafa’s legislation, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023, which allows the federal, states, and tribal governments to continue the use of aerially applied fire retardants.”

The United Aerial Firefighters Association (UAFA) was established to foster safety and standardization in the aerial firefighting community through education, advocacy, and collaboration.

The UAFA brings together the most experienced industry experts to provide a strong and coordinated voice for the entire aerial firefighting community with the goal of informing policymakers and legislators about important issues concerning the increasingly critical nature of aerial wildland firefighting matters.