



To educate the community, to increase the awareness of fire risks, to reduce wildfire fuel loading, conserve natural resources, participate in fire recovery efforts, and to prepare for other disasters.

March 21, 2023

Dear Congressman LaMalfa,

The Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council is writing to you in support of your bipartisan bill, H.R. 1586 – the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023. We are a small nonprofit serving the community of Concow / Yankee Hill located in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Butte County, an area that has extensive history in experiencing wildland fires. Our community is surrounded and peppered by public lands and we understand how frequently they are litigated by environmental groups, when they are working to provide a necessary service for community protection. It is our mission to educate the community and increase awareness to fire risks; reduce wildfire fuel loading, conserve natural resources, participate in fire recovery efforts and prepare for other disasters.

The Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council believes it is imparitve for the Forest Service and other agencies to continue to operate under the assumption National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is not required for the use of fire retardant for fire control purposes. It is our understanding that fire control is a “non-point source silvicultural activity” and communications dating back to 1993 from EPA indicated a permit is not required. Therefore, we are in support of bill H.R. 1586 to allow the use of fire retardant under an emergency response to a threatening wildfire putting our firefighters, public, infrastructure at risk.

We must be able to fight wildfires with all the resources available to lessen the impact of forested land and our communities.

Thank you kindly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda A. Rightmyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Brenda Rightmyer
Managing Director
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