



Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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DAN HAVERTY
Interim Fire Chief

March 22, 2023

Congressman Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **SUPPORT** – H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

I write today in support of [H.R. 1586 Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023](#). This important piece of legislation will help ensure that vital tools and tactics remain available for fire suppression across the State of California, and indeed our entire nation.

At a time when nine out of the top ten largest California wildfires have occurred within the past decade¹, it is critical for the protection of life, the defense of property, and the safety of our first responders and the public alike that fire retardant remain available for use when facing these catastrophic flames. Without the availability of retardant, fire behavior can be drastically increased and many more acres become threatened or lost.

H.R. 1586 – and the companion Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 in the U.S. Senate – serves an essential role by clarifying that fire retardant remains a readily accessible and viable option for Federal, State, Local, and Tribal entities when used in connection for fire suppression, control, or prevention.

For these reasons, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District supports H.R. 1586, and urges you and your colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Government Affairs Kyle Macdonald at macdonald.kyle@metrofire.ca.gov.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan Haverty
Interim Fire Chief

¹ CAL FIRE: [Top 20 Largest California Wildfires](#) (10/24/2022)