

March 22, 2023



Berry Creek Fire Safe Council
PO Box 371
Berry Creek CA 95916

Dear Madam or Sir,

I, Denise Bethune, am writing this letter in support for Congressman Doug LaMalfa and HR 1586, the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023. I am a community leader in Berry Creek, a rural foothill area in Northern California. I have great concern for the safety of the area. This bill is important for firefighters to have the tools to fight these devastating wildfires.

Berry Creek has experienced the devastation of the Northwest Complex Wildfire in 2020. The impact has left our community devastated in its path. Any future communities that are threatened by a wildfire need to have all resources available to firefighters. This is a necessity! The safety of life, wildlife, forest, and property must be the priority. I have personally experienced the loss and destruction of the Northwest Complex Fire. My home was destroyed. The toxins that are released from burnt dwellings are more of a threat to the watersheds. Limiting any resources that help fight wildfires will hinder those efforts. This could potentially be catastrophic.

Please consider the importance of the bipartisan supported bill, HR 1586- the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023. Lives could be dependent on the resources firefighters have protecting these communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise M Bethune', written in a cursive style.

Denise M Bethune
Chairwoman
Berry Creek Fire Safe Council
berrycreekFSC@gmail.com
(916) 223-7490