



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

RE: The National Wildland Fire Hazards Reduction Program Act

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

Wildland fires are a major issue facing our country, leading to large portions of federal land scorched over the past several years. These fires have resulted in entire communities being destroyed, in addition to significant property damage, acute short-term and long-term health problems, and detrimental effects on the economy and infrastructure in California and across the nation. These catastrophic events also have revealed disparate impacts on vulnerable populations and communities.

The University of California (UC) supports the focus and commitment by Congress to addressing wildland fire impacts. Specifically, UC supports the 'National Wildland Fire Hazards Reduction Program Act,' sponsored by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, and encourages the House Science, Space and Technology Committee to advance this important legislation.

UC appreciates that the 'National Wildland Fire Hazards Reduction Program Act' aims to improve the understanding and prediction of wildland fires and their impacts, develop cost-effective measures, and improve the understanding of wildland fire risk on our urban, suburban, and rural communities. To achieve these and other important outcomes, robust and sustained federal funding is required to support the expansion of relevant research and development projects, advanced tools and technologies, data management strategies, and large-scale demonstrations.

As a university system with 10 top-ranked campuses, a world renown health system - UC Health, three UC-affiliated Department of Energy national labs, and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, we understand the need to translate basic research to public use. In addition, federal support is imperative for educating and training students, researchers, and partners to continue developing meaningful innovations and solutions in wildland fire contexts with a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. UC applauds the proposed federal interagency approach to funding the mitigation of wildland fires through innovative and impactful research and technology development.

UC strongly supports the 'National Wildland Fire Hazards Reduction Program Act.' We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa A. Maldonado".

Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Vice President for Research & Innovation

cc: Christopher Harrington, Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, UC System