

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

September 9, 2020

Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

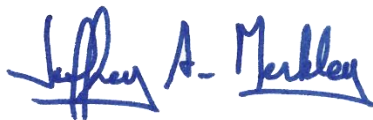
We strongly support Governor Brown's request for an Emergency declaration on September 9, 2020, for the State of Oregon, in response to the devastating wildfires burning in Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Tillamook and Washington counties, which are also significantly impacting the lands and resources of several federally recognized tribes. Given the severity and speed in which these fires are spreading across the state, we urge you to expedite the declaration process to ensure that local communities have the resources they need to respond to and recover quickly from these devastating wildfires.

Oregon is facing its worst drought in nearly 30 years, which has resulted in some of the driest forest conditions on record. On the afternoon of September 7, 2020, a windstorm, with winds up to 50 mph and gusts of 60 mph, moved into the region from the east. These winds, mixed with dry fuel loads, exploded existing fires and caught many communities by surprise. Thousands of Oregonians were forced to flee from their communities in the early morning hours of September 8, and it is unclear when they will be able to return home.

In addition, strong winds have downed power lines, starting new fires that have quickly spread and, tragically, have already destroyed homes and businesses. Over the past several days, the state has been focusing its resources on saving lives and protecting property. Fortunately, recent changes in weather patterns have allowed the state to finally shift its focus from defending life and property, to taking the offensive and working to contain the fires.

The number and scale of fires burning on Oregon's landscape at the moment are unprecedented, and urgent action is necessary. We thank you in advance for your expedited review of Governor Brown's Emergency disaster declaration request.

Sincerely,



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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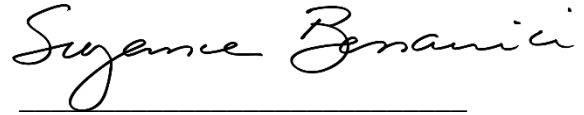
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



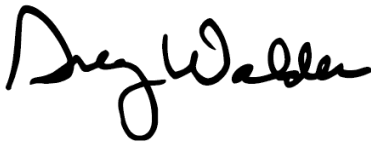
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



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Greg Walden  
Member of Congress