



January 26, 2021

Senator Skinner, Chair, Budget Committee  
 Senator Wieckowski, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources, Environmental Protection,  
 Energy and Transportation  
 State Capitol, Room 5019  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Ting, Chair, Budget Committee  
 Assembly Member Bloom, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources and Transportation  
 State Capitol, Room 6026  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Appropriating FY 20-21 Wildfire Resilience Funding at Earliest Opportunity**

Dear Senators Wieckowski and Skinner, and Assembly Members Bloom and Ting:

We write to urge that the Senate and Assembly include the Governor's proposed \$323 million early action appropriation for Wildfire and Forest Resilience in the earliest budget action.

The 2020 fire season was yet another wake-up call that California is unprepared for modern fire behavior. We saw record-breaking acreage burned; devastating natural areas, wiping out trees that have stood for more than 100 years, and destroying homes, businesses, and communities, and most tragically, resulting in the loss of life. The extreme smoke blanketed our state, keeping us inside for months, harming public health and undermining our climate progress. We must do more – and quickly – if we are to have a hope of avoiding a repeat of the past few fire seasons.

There are shovel-ready wildfire, community protection, and landscape resilience projects critical to addressing this current threat. However, these projects sit idle, simply waiting for funding to implement them. The sooner we can allocate fiscal year 2020-21 funding, the more likely these projects can be completed prior to the upcoming fire season. And we continue planning future actions and building momentum to achieve even more in the coming years.

There is broad agreement on the urgent need for these investments. Please appropriate the initial \$323 million for wildfire resilience at the earliest opportunity. Delay benefits no one.

Earnestly,

Pacific Forest Trust  
California Cattlemen's Association  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Wine Institute  
California Native Plant Society  
Sierra Forest Legacy  
Sierra Business Council  
California Association of Wine Grape Growers  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Napa Valley Grapegrowers  
Napa Valley Vintners  
California Wilderness Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy

Coalition for Clean Air  
US Green Building Council, Los Angeles  
California State Parks Foundation  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy  
Bear Yuba Land Trust  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
Placer Land Trust  
Joel Joyce, Senior Management Analyst,  
Placer County  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
Feather River Land Trust

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom  
Speaker Anthony Rendon  
President pro Tempore Toni Atkins