

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 13, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretaries Zinke and Perdue:

As managers of our public lands, you understand the danger and devastation that wildland fire poses to our communities and treasured landscapes. Like Montana and other parts of the west, Oregon is enduring a severe fire season that has stretched resources thin. With those resource challenges in mind, we are writing in support of Governor Brown's request for additional capacity on the ground to suppress these fires.

Oregon is currently battling 17 large fires including Chetco Bar and Eagle Creek – fires that at one point have each been designated as the highest national priority wildfire. These fires have proven difficult to contain and will be burning until the rain begins in the fall.

We know that fire suppression is currently the top priority for your departments, but it is clear that there simply are not enough suppression resources available to meet the needs of all of the fires currently burning. We support the governor's request and encourage your agencies to be creative and assertive in expanding the pool of resources available to fight the fires, including advocating with other agencies and the White House as appropriate.

Thank you for the work and the resources that your departments have already deployed to fight these fires in our state. Please let us know what the delegation can do to help deliver additional resources to Oregon.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



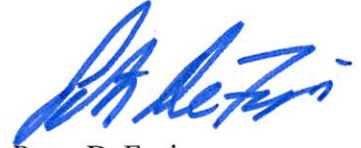
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress