

PETER A. DEFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
RANKING MEMBER



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

September 5, 2017

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416
- 405 EAST 8TH AVENUE, #2030
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 465-6732
1-800-944-9603
- 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- defazio.house.gov

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write with the urgent request for emergency funding for wildland fire suppression be included in the Hurricane Harvey emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

As you know, fires are raging throughout the country. Oregon's Chetco Bar fire has consumed more than 167,000 acres. Additionally, there are twenty-three other Oregon fires which have burned over 340,000 acres to date. It is estimated that the Chetco fire alone will not be contained until the end of October.

Of course Oregon is not alone. Dozens of severe fires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres across the West. Thousands of people have been evacuated, and homes and businesses have been destroyed. It is likely the USFS will exhaust all funding for wildfire suppression within days. Once that occurs, the agency is forced to borrow from other USFS accounts to pay for wildland fire suppression. Often the accounts that are depleted fund the very activities that help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, creating a vicious cycle.

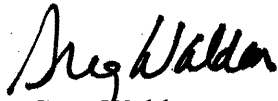
This week the House is expected to pass legislation to assist in the recovery efforts for the devastation from Hurricane Harvey. Given the immediate need for additional resources for wildfire suppression, it is appropriate to include emergency appropriations within the Harvey disaster relief bill.

Thank you for the consideration of our request. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress