

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Jon Tester
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Vice Chairman Shelby,

We write to urge you to provide robust funding for the National Guard to support firefighting efforts in communities across the nation, particularly in the West, affected by wildfires in the Fiscal Year 2022 Defense Appropriations bill.

In 2020, the West experienced severe drought, which resulted in some of the driest conditions on record. More than 50,000 fires burned 10 million acres with fires lasting well into the fall, destroying homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Throughout the summer and fall, National Guard members proved to be pivotal firefighting forces across the West.

As the country struggles to adapt to longer and more severe wildfire seasons, additional resources to train members of the National Guard is critical. Guard members must have the appropriate training and equipment to fulfill their missions and this funding is critical to ensure they are properly prepared.

As you develop the FY2022 Defense Appropriations bill, robust funding for wildfire training is critical to the National Guard's ability to protect communities from wildfires. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Roger Marshall
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Amy Klobuchar
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