

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Peters and Graves and Ranking Members Paul and Larsen:

The undersigned organizations support swift passage of the bipartisan Wildfire Response Improvement Act. The programs and guidance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency need to be revised to accurately address the threat of wildfires. The process of benefit-cost analysis should incorporate adaptability, and adjustments to the categorical eligibilities within the Public Assistance program should align with the requirements of wildfire response.

The devastating wildfire in Maui, with growing challenges across our nation underscores that our companies and communities require proactive assistance to prepare ahead of and to respond to the significant threats from wildfires. This legislation would build on the funding contained in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to modernize the federal approach to ensure cost-effective wildfire mitigation and update our fire management assistance and response policies.

We commend your committees for your leadership on this important issue and urge that you take up this proposal in short order.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering  
Companies  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Big City Emergency Managers  
BuildStrong America  
Geos Institute  
International Association of Emergency  
Managers  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

International Association of Plumbing and  
Mechanical Officials  
National Association of Counties  
National Emergency Management  
Association  
National League of Cities  
National Recreation and Park Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs