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April 14, 2022

Congressman Tom McClintock Roseville District Office 2200A Douglas Blvd., Suite 240 Roseville, CA 95661

Re: Support of HR 6903 Immediate Suppression of Wildfires

Dear Congressman McClintock,

We, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors, support HR 6903 which you and Congressman LaMalfa have introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill directs the USFS to immediately suppress wildfires on National Forest lands which stops their ability to become mega-fires.

We understand there is a lack of resources within the USFS, and many more projects need to be completed on forest lands, such as the SERAL project in Tuolumne County, which can actually reduce the risk of destructive wildfires. However, until many of these projects are underway and/or are completed, and the risk has been reduced through more aggressive and ubiquitous vegetation management, we agree that there is a need to suppress unplanned fires that have ignited on USFS land before they have a chance to become out-of-control mega-fires.

Unmitigated wildfires leave forest lands barren for decades. We have seen the progression of increased wildfire activity in California resulting in increased fire insurance premiums and ultimately cancellation of those policies. These mega-fires create unhealthy environments in poor air quality for much of California, whether one lives near the wildfire or hundreds of miles away. These wildfires emit excessive carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Out-of-control wildfires affect our local economies built on tourism and destroy natural resources, homes, businesses, and lives. Having a policy that allows some fires to continue to burn during drought years with dead and dying trees is just irresponsible.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Anaiah Kirk

Chair, Board of Supervisors

County of Tuolumne

Kathleen K. Haff

Vice-Chair, Board of Supervisors

County of Tuolumne