

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to urge to you to provide relief to states that are struggling with the impact of extreme drought and wildfire this summer and uncompensated damage from past wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and storms. We urge you to request additional funding to meet those needs.

According to the Drought Monitor, over half of the United States is experiencing a historic drought. Over 95% of the West is now either abnormally dry or in a drought, which is among the highest percentages in the past 20 years. In addition, over 800,000 acres of forests and rangelands have been burned by wildfire over the past year. The scale and nature of the problem is quickly outpacing the availability of funding and authorities of federal agencies.

In addition to the escalating impact of this year's drought and wildfires, many states and communities never received supplemental relief for damage for disasters in 2020. While in most cases the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has delivered substantial emergency relief to affected communities, the scale of natural disasters experienced in 2020 demands additional resources that can only be delivered through a disaster supplemental.

We thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



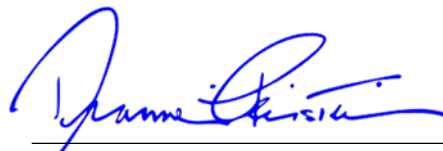
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator




Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator