

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2024

The Honorable Mark Hilton
Chief, National Interagency Fire Center
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

Dear Chief Hilton,

Given the increased wildfire risk we are facing across our State, we write to request your strong support for the State of Colorado as it continues to battle several ongoing wildfires that threaten homes and communities. Specifically, we urge you to work with the State of Colorado to meet requests for available hand crews needed as soon as possible, in addition to any available engines, incident management teams, and aviation support.


The Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer County, the Stone Canyon and Lake Shore Fires in Boulder County, and the Quarry Fire in Jefferson County have all begun within the last 48 hours. This has prompted the evacuation of thousands, claiming the life of one of our community members, burning more than a combined 9,000 acres, and destroying at least five structures.

The State of Colorado has activated all available resources to address these wildfires, including new aerial resources, and are actively coordinating with the National Interagency Fire Center and neighboring states. With existing wildfires and the continued high wildfire risk, the State expects to need additional resources in the coming days and weeks.

We understand the pressures facing our wildland firefighting workforce, as wildfires rage all across the western United States and continue to threaten many of our communities. Existing resources are stretched thin to meet those demands. We strongly support the State of Colorado's request for additional resources immediately, and over the coming weeks and months, as we continue to face extreme heat and drought conditions that may exacerbate existing fires and increase the risk of additional wildfires. Time is of the essence to save lives and homes.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



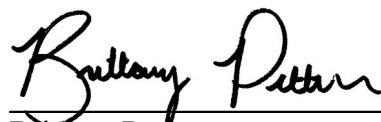
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

cc: Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center
Denver Federal Center Building 40
Lakewood, CO 80226