



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 9, 2020

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a follow-up to the recent letter from Oregon's entire congressional delegation, I write to urge you to approve Oregon Governor Kate Brown's September 9, 2020, request for a Major Disaster declaration.

Severe wildfires are burning throughout my district. Lane, Douglas, and Linn counties are particularly hard-hit, and other counties may soon face the same severe fire dangers. It is imperative that the federal government support these local communities with the resources they need.

These fires caught many communities by surprise. The Holiday Farm fire in Lane County has burned over 100,000 acres and is at zero percent containment. The communities of Blue River and Vida have been completely destroyed.

In Douglas County, mandatory evacuations are in place as the Archie Creek and French Creek fires destroy structures. In Coos County, the Star Mountain Lane fire is raging with zero percent containment. In Linn County, multiple fires have ignited and threaten communities around the county.

Homes, businesses, timberlands, and farms lay in ruins. Sadly, and most tragically, lives have been lost.

At this point, fire officials have been forced to focus their efforts on saving lives and protecting property. Unfortunately, they do not have the resources needed to begin robust suppression efforts.

The number and scale of fires burning on Oregon's landscape are unprecedented, and urgent action is necessary. Additionally, Oregon is facing its worst drought in nearly 30 years, which has resulted in some of the driest forest conditions on record.

Given the severity and speed with which these fires are spreading across my district, I urge you to expedite the declaration process to ensure that Oregonians have the resources they need to respond to and recover quickly from these devastating wildfires.

Thank you for your consideration of an expedited review of Governor Brown's disaster declaration request. Lives and property have already been lost, and many more are under threat. The natural resources many of my constituents depend on for their livelihoods are at high risk. I greatly appreciate your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Cc: FEMA Administrator Peter T. Gaynor