Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 27, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in support of the State of California's request for a disaster declaration in our state.

Currently, there are an estimated 1088 fires burning throughout California. 265,000 acres have been burned; 284 homes have been damaged or destroyed; thousands have been evacuated. Volunteers, state and federal officials have quickly responded to these fires and are doing an excellent job. But the overwhelming number of fires has stretched State and Local resources to the limit. We need more help.

This is a disaster of major scope and consequence. There have been fires in thirty counties; the governor has declared a state of emergency in seven counties; all of California's resources are battling these fires. Still, fifteen percent of all fires on state land do not have a single firefighter fighting the blazes. This is not due to negligence- our fire agencies have had to make the hard choices to abandon some fires in order to battle others.

These fires are the product of more than 8,000 lightning strikes and record-low rain fall. And meteorologists say there is more to come. Experts say that there are more lightning strikes, and more fires on the way.

An Emergency Declaration under the Stafford Act will provide the essential federal resources needed to save the homes, property, and potentially lives of constituents in our state. These assets are greatly needed and will be put to good use in the days to come.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress

ANNA ESHOO
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

DAVID DREIER
Member of Congress

JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

SAM FARR
Member of Congress

LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

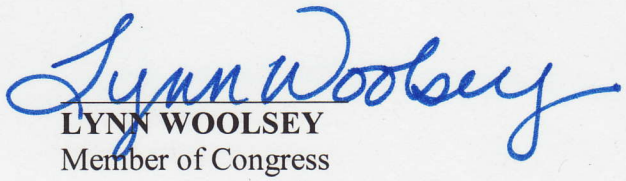
GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress

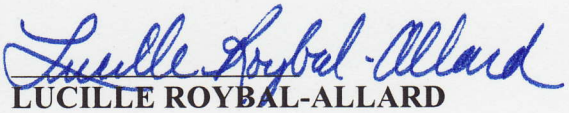
HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress

GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

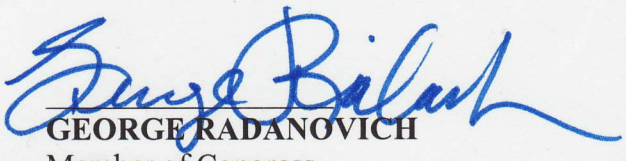
HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress



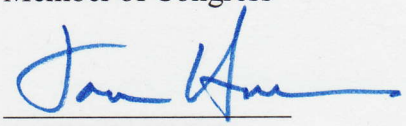
LYNN WOOLSEY
Member of Congress



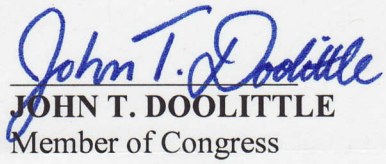
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



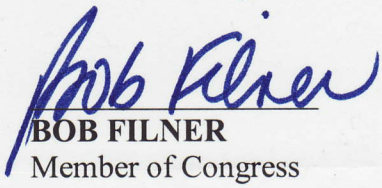
GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress



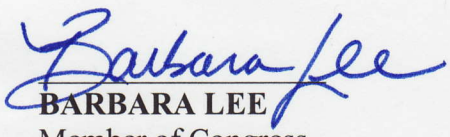
JANE HARMAN
Member of Congress



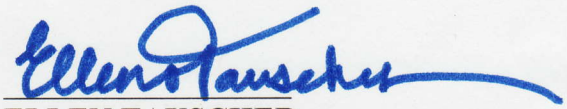
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

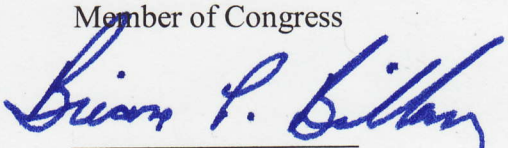


BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



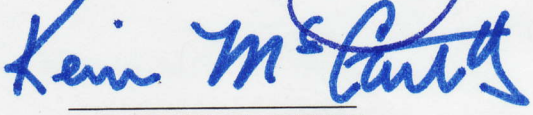
ELLEN TAUSCHER
Member of Congress

DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress

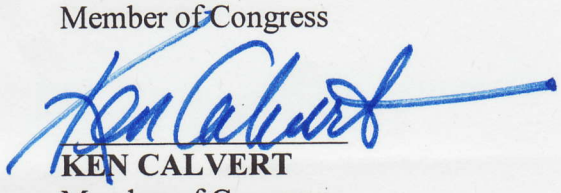


BRIAN BILBRAY
Member of Congress

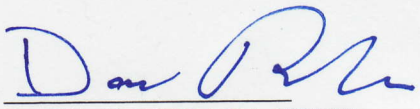
DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



KEVIN McCARTHY
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress