



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree,  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce,  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I strongly urge you to include \$1 million for a project to mitigate wildfires through improved vegetation management, a Community Project Funding request of the Town of Los Gatos, which is associated with U.S. Forest Service account for State and Private Forestry.

Northern California has been plagued by highly destructive wildfires in recent years and the impact of climate change means these trends are unfortunately likely to continue. This is why wildfire mitigation is a major focus for many communities in my region. In 2019, the Town of Los Gatos commissioned a study to inform a roadway vegetation management plan, examining over 31 miles in hillside roadways. The study found that 11 of those miles are of very high concern for safe evacuation by residents and safe access by first responders to the hillsides. Last fiscal year, the Los Gatos Town Council allocated \$500,000 toward the project, improving the condition of 6.5 of the 11 miles identified as very critical.

With this funding, the Town of Los Gatos would be able to complete wildfire mitigation for the remaining 11 miles of roadway considered to be of very high concern.

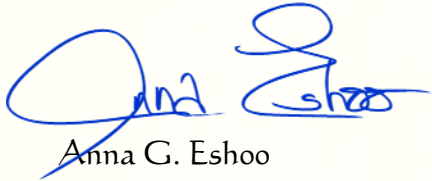
As an indication of local support, I've enclosed an article from the *San Jose Mercury News* identifying fire mitigation in the area of the project as among the most necessary in the state, along with seven letters of support from local elected officials and community leaders, including the following:

- The Honorable Dave Cortese, Senator, California State Senate

- The Honorable Evan Low, Assemblymember, California State Assembly
- The Honorable Mike Wasserman, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
- Dr. Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive, Santa Clara County
- Mr. Brian Glass, Acting Fire Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Mr. Seth M. Schalet, CEO of Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
- Mr. Mike Shields, Mr. Rob Stump, and Mr. Jon Witty of the Civic Center Hillside Neighborhood Managing Council

I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do so as well.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures