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

Most gratefully,

Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures