



November 19, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of Air Methods, and our subsidiaries United Rotorcraft and Spright, we are writing to express our support for the National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act (HR. 5781), led by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA). We encourage the House Science, Space and Technology Committee to advance this important legislation.

United Rotorcraft, a division of Air Methods located in Colorado specializes in the design and manufacture of aeromedical and aerospace technology and has focused on developing solutions to wildfire mitigation and response by developing an aerial firefighting system that converts an S-70 Black Hawk helicopter into a 'Firehawk.' Since 2019, UR has modified and delivered 10 aircraft to California firefighters and has a number in various stages of production for delivery to both California and Colorado.

Spright, our recently formed drone solution provider headquartered in Arizona, is focused on implementing cutting-edge drone technology to reduce risk and improve aerial access using uncrewed aircraft operations. Spright's missions serve public challenge areas such as the delivery chain of goods and the monitoring of critical assets and operations. Spright with its advanced tools and technologies, along with Air Methods' other divisions and capabilities, is dedicated to helping advance the mitigation and protection against wildland fires.

Wildland fires are an increasingly major issue facing our country, one that we believe needs a comprehensive and coordinated approach to bring together the resources, research, and innovative tools and technologies. While there has been a growing focus on fire mitigation in certain states for several years, it is evident that this is a growing problem that is having detrimental effects on increasing numbers of states and their communities.

Air Methods supports the proposed interagency approach to addressing the planning for and response to wildland fires. A coordinated and collaborative approach that proactively brings together not only multiple agencies, but also private sector organizations and partners, is critical to preparing and responding to the nation's detrimental fire risks. We applaud the focus of investing resources on innovative tools and technologies to support active wildland fire research, monitoring, mitigation, and risk reduction, especially as it pertains to use of autonomous aerial systems and other emerging capabilities such as autonomous, high-altitude assets.

We look forward to working with the Committee and Congresswoman Lofgren to help advance this legislation. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaelynn Williams".

Jaelynn Williams  
CEO  
Air Methods Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Alexandre".

Larry Alexandre  
President  
United Rotorcraft

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Resnik".

Joseph Resnik  
President  
Spright

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