



MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
House Science, Space, & Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Office of Congresswoman Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of Miami University, we are pleased to express our support for the National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act (H.R. 5781) led by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA). This bill recognizes the importance of U.S. leadership in wildland fire science and includes a focus on the wildland urban interface, prediction of fire, fire weather, smoke and fire behavior, impacts of climate change and variability, and wildlife and ecosystem destruction.

This comprehensive piece of legislation brings much needed attention to the seriousness of the matter and if passed, will prepare the country to better live with fire and fire risk. Additionally, this bill will develop a coordinated governmental approach to bring together federal resources and tools to improve science-based decision making, planning for, and response to wildfires. We applaud that this legislation would:

- Enhance homeowner's and communities' abilities to defend themselves against and prevent wildland fire spread via improved NIST research and standards for architectural and landscape planning, design, and building;
- Increase the trained workforce in wildland fire science, including educational and research opportunities via NSF;
- Empowers NOAA, in collaboration with other federal agencies, to set a data sharing and interoperability standard to ensure rapid and reliable dissemination of data and establish new fire weather and fire-climate observations, models, and products;
- Strengthen NASA's abilities to provide wildland fire observations now and into the future via real-time and near-real-time measurements, including derived science and data products like fire risk and fire spread maps; and
- Integrates current and established EPA tools and expertise with the need to quantify smoke impacts on communities, including differentiating smoke caused by prescribed fire and wildland fires, and communicating wildland fire and smoke risk to the general public.

Miami University appreciated the opportunity for our faculty member, Dr. Jessica McCarty to testify before the Committee during the June 29, 2021 hearing on the state of federal wildland fire science and to offer feedback on this important piece of legislation. We look forward to working with the Committee and Congresswoman Lofgren to help advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Randi Malcolm Thomas, Esq.
Vice President of ASPIRE
Miami University

Office of ASPIRE

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