



January 25, 2022

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chair  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1401 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Johnson, Lucas, DeFazio, Graves, and Lofgren,

On behalf of our 4,700 members and global community of fire protection engineers, I am writing you today in support of “H.R. 5781 — 117th Congress: National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act.” At the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), we know and have witnessed the increased severity and frequency of wildfires. We all understand that wildfires lead to substantial social/economic toll, environmental damage, and community devastation – on top of the potential loss of human life.

Headquartered just outside of Washington, DC, in Gaithersburg, MD, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers is the world’s leading professional society for fire protection and fire safety engineering. SFPE defines, develops, and advances the use of engineering best practices; expands the scientific and technical knowledge base; and educates the global fire safety community to reduce fire risk. SFPE and its members have been engineering a fire-safe world since 1950. As fire protection engineers, we share our nation’s goal of reducing wildland fire risks and know that solutions are well within our reach.

Over the past several years, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers has been working on a robust model to engage our community of researchers and practitioners in developing and implementing engineering solutions to the problem of fires in the wildland-urban interface. In conjunction with the SFPE Foundation, we are facilitating research and education that advances the scientific understanding of fire and its interaction with the natural and built environments. Together with our expert members, we’ve authored a roadmap of research needs for the fire-safety engineering profession, with several priorities focused on the wildland and the wildland-urban interface. Information about the current and planned initiatives from the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and the SFPE Foundation is available at [sfpe.org](http://sfpe.org) and [sfpe.org/foundation](http://sfpe.org/foundation).

The “H.R. 5781 — 117th Congress: National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act” provides national leadership, cooperation, and resources needed to accelerate the reduction of wildland fire risks. The SFPE and our community of fire protection engineers strongly supports the “H.R. 5781 — 117th Congress: National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program Act.”

Sincerely,

Nicole Testa Boston  
Chief Executive Officer  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers