

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 10, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Over the weekend, an aggressive wildfire broke out in Northern Nevada, beginning at Davis Creek Regional Park and spreading through Washoe Valley and part of the south Reno area. As this fire continues to threaten lives, homes, businesses, and livelihoods, I ask that you and your Administration stand ready to provide any federal resources necessary to fight this fire, help communities recover, and allow for this area to build back stronger.

Nevada is already reeling from 665 fires that have burned over 74,100 acres across our state this year alone. Unfortunately like many fires, the Davis Fire that began over the weekend has been fueled by heavy winds and perpetual drought conditions. In just three days, the Davis Fire has burned over 5,000 acres, threatened 15,000 homes, caused hundreds of evacuations, left thousands without power, and already destroyed more than a dozen structures. Northern Nevada has a strong community and incredibly brave individuals fighting this fire, who are working tirelessly around the clock to keep their neighbors safe. Even with these efforts, the fire is currently zero percent contained and additional federal resources may be necessary.

Congress has done its part over the last few years to ensure resources are available to prevent, fight, mitigate, and eventually recover from wildfires, but there is still more that can be done with the allocated funds. In Fiscal Year 2024 alone, Congress appropriated over \$4 billion for wildfire suppression and management at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which I was proud to help draft and get signed into law, included \$5 billion for wildland fire mitigation and management over five years for the U.S. Forest Service and DOI. We've seen this funding already go to important initiatives, including fuels reduction and fire mitigation practices, in addition to new technologies that can improve wildfire detection and response time. As Nevada residents face this latest wave of wildfires, I urge your Administration to continue to allocate these funds in a way where communities like those in Northern Nevada, who need them most, can access and utilize them for critical wildfire management and recovery activities.

I do want to thank your Administration for expeditiously approving Nevada's request for a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant to aid in their fight against the Davis Fire and acknowledging that the fire threatened severe destruction. This funding can support a variety of firefighting activities from field camps to equipment use to mobilization and demobilization activities.

As the brave firefighting crews and first responders continue to work to manage and control the Davis Fire, I call on your Administration to stand ready to provide any resources needed to protect Northern Nevada and the homes, small businesses, critical infrastructure, and stunning landscapes that make up these communities. The reality of the situation is that there's no longer just a fire season in Nevada, but instead, a constant threat. As these fires continue to be more unpredictable and cause even greater damage, we have a duty to step up and stay ready to provide support to states and localities at a moment's notice.

Sincerely,



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator