

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 4, 2019

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the California Congressional delegation, we write to condemn the recent action of your Administration to transfer \$155 million dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster relief fund to pay for ICE detention beds and judicial hearing facilities. As you know, in the past few years we have seen devastating, record breaking natural disasters and to undercut FEMA's funding and its ability to respond at the height of fire season in California is unacceptable. Year after year California has been subject to devastating natural disasters, each larger and more deadly than the year before.

In 2017, California experienced what were, at the time, the most devastating fires in its history. Exasperated by longtime and widespread drought, the entire state felt the devastation and impact of the 2017 fire season. According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, these wildfires burned nearly 1,381,405 acres in California, destroyed 9,470 structures, causing billions of dollars in damage, and, most tragically, took the lives of 47 people.

In 2018 California experienced wildfires and natural disasters that shattered the record set by 2017. 2018 became the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season ever recorded in California, with a total of 8,527 fires burning an area of 1,893,913 acres, the largest area of burned acreage recorded in a fire season, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Through both of these terrible years FEMA disaster relief funding was imperative to disaster response effort in our state.

However, our concern goes beyond California and wildfires. As Hurricane Dorian threatens the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the mainland United States it is imperative that FEMA has all the funds available to respond to dangerous and deadly disasters.

2019 will be no different than 2017 or 2018, California and the Country will experience more deadly natural disasters and wildfires in the coming month. FEMA must have all available funds in anticipation for forthcoming disasters. This is why we vehemently oppose this reprogramming of funds and urge you ensure that no FEMA disaster relief funding is transferred.

Sincerely,



**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress



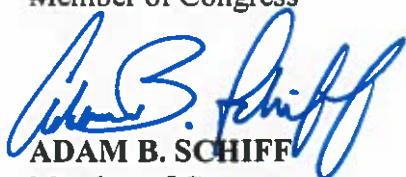
**ZOE LOFGREN**  
Member of Congress



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress



**MARK DESAULNIER**  
Member of Congress



**ADAM B. SCHIFF**  
Member of Congress



**BARBARA LEE**  
Member of Congress



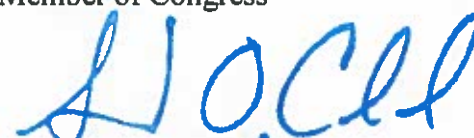
**GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**  
Member of Congress




**KATIE HILL**  
Member of Congress



**JOHN GARAMENDI**  
Member of Congress



**SALUD CARBAJAL**  
Member of Congress



**JULIA BROWNLEY**  
Member of Congress



**NORMA J. TORRES**  
Member of Congress



**RO KHANNA**  
Member of Congress



**SCOTT PETERS**  
Member of Congress



**JOSH HARDER**  
Member of Congress



**ALAN LOWENTHAL**  
Member of Congress



**JUAN VARGAS**  
Member of Congress



**DORIS O. MATSUI**  
Member of Congress



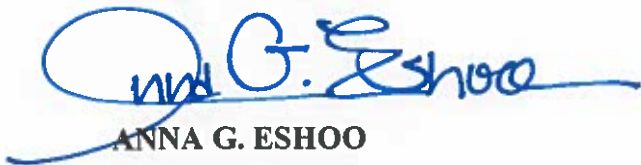
**GILBERT R. CISNEROS, JR.**  
Member of Congress



**MIKE LEVIN**  
Member of Congress



**LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**  
Member of Congress



**ANNA G. ESHOO**  
Member of Congress



**KATIE PORTER**  
Member of Congress



**NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN**  
Member of Congress



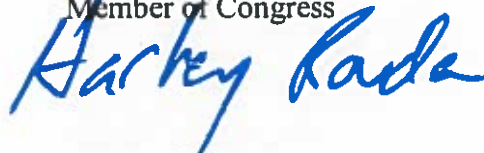
**TED W. LIEU**  
Member of Congress



**TJ COX**  
Member of Congress



**RAUL RUIZ, M.D**  
Member of Congress



**HARLEY ROUDA**  
Member of Congress



**J. LUIS CORREA**  
Member of Congress



**JACKIE SPEIER**  
Member of Congress



**KAREN BASS**  
Member of Congress



**ERIC SWALWELL**  
Member of Congress



**JIMMY GOMEZ**  
Member of Congress



**AMI BERA**  
Member of Congress



**BRAD SHERMAN**  
Member of Congress



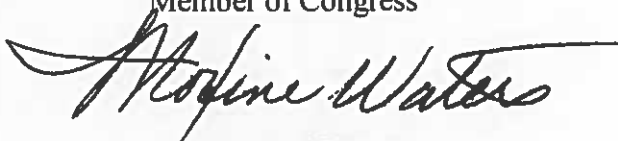
**TONY CÁRDENAS**  
Member of Congress



**SUSAN A. DAVIS**  
Member of Congress



**JIM COSTA**  
Member of Congress



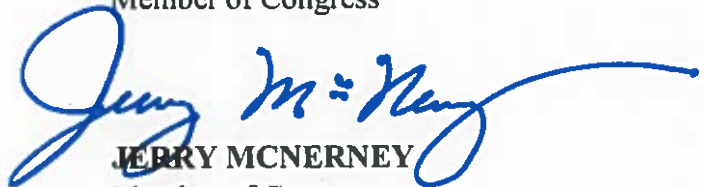
**MAXINE WATERS**  
Member of Congress



**PETE AGUILAR**  
Member of Congress



**JIMMY PANETTA**  
Member of Congress



**JERRY MCNERNEY**  
Member of Congress



**JUDY CHU**  
Member of Congress



**MARK TAKANO**  
Member of Congress