

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Tom Schultz  
Chief  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Chief Schultz:

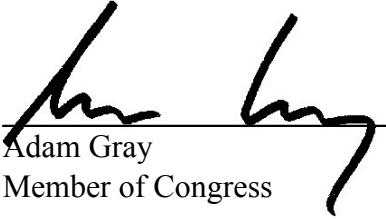
We write to express our strong support for reinstating funding for CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program, provided by the US Department of Agriculture's Forestry Department, a critical initiative that enhances disaster preparedness, fire resilience, and forest management across the State of California.

Twenty-two Californian communities were awarded grants to expand urban forestry efforts. The funding has been paused under the Unleashing American Energy Executive Order, directing federal agencies to freeze programs funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to allow the administration to reassess alignment with policies. This halt has placed critical community projects in jeopardy.

These grants were awarded to cities across California to plant trees, develop urban forest management plans, mitigate extreme heat, expand green infrastructure, and enhance disaster preparedness. However, there is concern that this pause may lead to the permanent cancellation of these grants, despite funds having been awarded fairly through a competitive process. Defunding these projects would weaken California's ability to prevent wildfires and respond to natural disasters, contradicting the Administration's commitment to domestic resilience and preventative forest management.

This U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forestry Service program advances responsible land stewardship, protects American communities, and reduces reliance on federal disaster aid. We urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to advocate for the immediate reinstatement of these grants and support efforts to safeguard California's long-term resilience.

Sincerely,



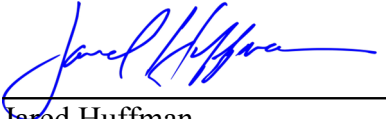
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Adam Gray  
Member of Congress



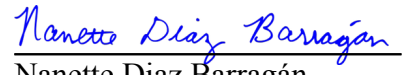
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



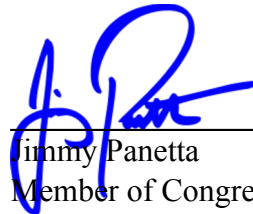
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



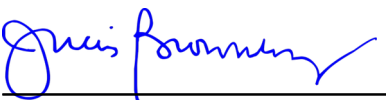
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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

CC: Jaelith Rivera, Deputy Chief  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

CC: Miranda Hutten, Regional Program Manager  
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service