

Alpine Biomass Committee

P.O. Box 368

Markleeville, CA 96120

dGriffith.9@gmail.com

July 20, 2017

The Honorable Congressman Tom McClintock
2200A Douglas Blvd, Suite 240
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: ELIMINATION OF “FIRE BORROWING” - **SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman McClintock,

The Alpine Biomass Committee (ABC) is a collaborative group in Alpine County with the mission of “Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health and local economic development”. The ABC took a position **supporting** eliminating “fire borrowing” in the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets at its July 11th meeting.

As you know, perhaps better than many of your colleagues, in years of high wildfire activity on our federal lands the costs that agencies incur to fight the wildfires are higher than their available fire-fighting budgets. The deficit is made up from funds originally targeted to planning, fuels reduction, forest thinning and similar programs that would reduce the risk of future catastrophic wildfires. Consequently the risk of catastrophic wildfires continually increases, with the subsequent higher expenditures to suppress the wildfires. This does not make sense.

Rather than repeat the arguments better made by others, we refer you to a letter sent last year by the Western Governors’ Association to the Senate and House leadership (http://westgov.org/images/editor/WGA_Fire_Borrowing_FINAL.pdf), and an article by the National Association of State Foresters (<http://stateforesters.org/americas-forests-need-wildfire-funding-fix>).

We understand that you face many hard choices in how to divide the available funds among many competing priorities. But as you know without adequate funding of programs to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, they will only increase in number and severity, decimating not only the federal agency’s budgets, but also our communities.

To learn more about the ABC, please visit our blog/website at <https://alpinebiomasscommittee.wordpress.com/>.

Respectfully submitted,

Alpine Biomass Committee
per David Griffith

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Congressman Mark Amodei
Rural Counties Representatives of California, Paul Smith

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Markleeville, CA 96120

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July 20, 2017

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4290
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: ELIMINATION OF “FIRE BORROWING” - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The Alpine Biomass Committee (ABC) is a collaborative group in Alpine County with the mission of “Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health and local economic development”. The ABC took a position **supporting** eliminating “fire borrowing” in the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets at its July 11th meeting.

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July 20, 2017

The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
501 I Street, Suite 7-600
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ELIMINATION OF “FIRE BORROWING” - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Harris,

The Alpine Biomass Committee (ABC) is a collaborative group in Alpine County with the mission of “Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health and local economic development”. The ABC took a position **supporting** eliminating “fire borrowing” in the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets at its July 11th meeting.

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Markleeville, CA 96120

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July 20, 2017

The Honorable Congressman Mark Amodei
5310 Kietzke Lane, Suite 103
Reno, NV 89511

RE: ELIMINATION OF “FIRE BORROWING” - **SUPPORT**

Dear Congressman Amodei,

The Alpine Biomass Committee (ABC) is a collaborative group in Alpine County (which is just upstream and upfire from Douglas County) with the mission of “Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health and local economic development”. The ABC took a position **supporting** eliminating “fire borrowing” in the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets at its July 11th meeting.

As you probably know, in years of high wildfire activity on our federal lands the costs that agencies incur to fight the wildfires are higher than their available fire-fighting budgets. The deficit is made up from funds originally targeted to planning, fuels reduction, forest thinning and similar programs that would reduce the risk of future catastrophic wildfires. Consequently the risk of catastrophic wildfires continually increases, with the subsequent higher expenditures to suppress the wildfires. This does not make sense.

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