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June 4, 2018

Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen  
United States Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20227

Dear Interim Chief Christiansen:

As we discussed during the joint United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Department of the Interior (DOI) 2018 Wildfire Outlook Briefing, I have heard a number of concerns from Oregonians regarding the Forest Service's wildfire emergency preparedness. I appreciated our conversation, and have specific concerns regarding the Forest Service's air tanker program.

The Forest Service has taken great steps to address emergency preparedness when it comes to fighting wildfires, including development of the Predictive Services program which helps to anticipate major fires and determine the best allocation of resources. However, it is my understanding that the agency is making changes to how it utilizes air tankers. With changes in your approach to air tanker contracting, what steps are you taking to ensure the agency is adequately prepared to respond quickly and effectively to wildfires once they strike?

I appreciate your response and attentiveness to this matter. If you have questions, please reach out to my staff at (202) 224-5244.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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