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September 30, 2021

Chief Randy Moore
U.S. Forest Service
201 14th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20227

Dear Chief Moore:

Oregon is home to many helicopter companies that have helped the U.S. Forest Service fight wildfire across the country. Helicopters play a critical role in America's wildland firefighting arsenal and it is important to ensure they remain a viable tool for fire managers.

I have heard a number of concerns raised about proposed changes the Forest Service is making to its contracting process for the helicopter fleet moving forward. I want to be sure that the agency has answered these fully, and understands the consequences, before issuing its Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) solicitation for Helicopter Support Services.

I am requesting clarification on several issues raised by companies in my state:

- For fully set-aside task orders, how will the agency determine fair market value under the Federal Acquisition Regulations?
- How will the agency account for future changes in business size and structure after contracts are awarded?
- How might the switch from using the Tradeoff process to determine best value to using the Lowest Price Technically Acceptable process affect the service provided?
- How will the agency ensure that changes to the evaluation criteria provide incentives to the vendors to improve Payload Performance, improve Safety Management System compliance, improve Organizational Past Performance (Customer Service) and improve Organizational Experience?
- How will a one-year contract with four or nine option years provide stability to companies that are being asked to make significant technology investments?
- If drastic changes to the contract structure results in fewer bidders, how will the agency ensure it is obtaining fair market value for the funds Congress appropriates?

Thank you in advance for responding to these questions in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senate

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