

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 18, 2018

Chairman Garth Fisher  
National Wildfire Coordinating Group  
Branch of Wildland Fire Management  
National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705

Dear Chairman Fisher,

Wildfires are devastating Oregon and California this summer, and we are writing to request that the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) resume publishing updated firefighting training materials in Spanish. The intensity and scope of the 2018 fire season is unprecedented; as of today, 841 fires in Oregon have burned over 430,000 acres<sup>1</sup>, and in California 5,398 fires have scorched over 1.42 million acres<sup>2</sup>. These fast-moving wildfires have caused deaths, burned hundreds of structures, displaced thousands of residents, and cost more than one billion dollars to contain.

Many of these fires burn in terrain too steep and too dangerous for fire engines to reach, and wildland fire crews hike in to wage a front-line battle against the fires. Given that a significant number of these brave wildland fire crews speak Spanish as their native language, it would be wiser and safer to provide bilingual training materials. The alternative is to risk danger and harm by requiring that all firefighters rapidly attempt to understand training materials that are only available in English.

We understand that as of last year, the NWCG no longer publishes current firefighting training materials in Spanish and has never produced bilingual versions of key manuals like the Incident Response Pocket Guide. We urge you to publish updated versions of the following training materials in English and Spanish:

- Incident Response Pocket Guide
- Pocket Safety Card: 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and 18 Watchout Situations
- S-130, Firefighting Training

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<sup>1</sup>"2018 National Year-to-Date Report on Fires and Acres Burned" (PDF). *NIFC*. August 31, 2018. Retrieved September 2, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>"2018 Fire Statistics". *CAL FIRE*. August 26, 2018. Retrieved September 5, 2018.

- S-190, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- L-180, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service
- IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS-700.B: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

Firefighters must be provided with clearly understandable, updated training materials so that they can operate safely and respond to wildfires expeditiously and efficiently.

We thank you for your efforts to publish firefighting materials and your attention to this matter.



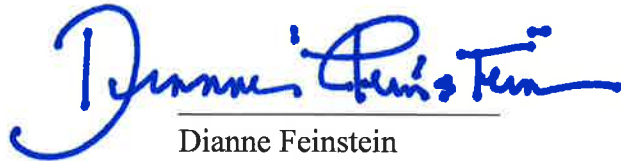
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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator