



## CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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## CITY COUNCIL

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Council Member Elaine Gennaway  
Council Member John Mark Jennings  
Council Member Sandy Rains

October 6, 2020

The Honorable Senator Mike Lee  
United States Senate  
361A Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

### **RE: Support of S. 4431**

Dear Senator Lee,

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 4431, relating to emergency wildfire and public safety. Senate Bill 4431 takes a necessary step to protect communities by reducing wildfire risk in federal forests, getting the private sector more involved in addressing dead and dying trees, improving best practices for addressing wildfires, and creating more resilient communities and energy grids.

Like many Western states, California continues to experience increased wildfires displacing people from their homes and communities. Action must be taken to help protect the public and mitigate the effects of wildfire season. Senate Bill 4431 will provide the Forest Service with the funding and administrative tool necessary to remove hazardous fuels to protect life, property, and natural and cultural resources. Having increased federal funding to mitigate potential forest fires risks is critical in protecting our communities and protecting our first responders. Tragically, firefighters lives our lost nearly every year battling wildfires. More needs to be done to protect our first responders.

The City of Laguna Niguel believes wildfires pose a significant threat to public safety, one that needs to be met with federal funds and a top-down approach. The Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020 is a step in the right direction by improving best practices for addressing wildfires. The act provides funding opportunities through FEMA allowing communities to utilize smart energy grids to prevent wildfires before they occur. Resources that have never been provided before can be made accessible through Senate Bill 4431. We urge you, alongside your Senate colleagues, to support Senate Bill 4431, and protect our communities and first responders.

Sincerely,

Laurie Davies  
Mayor

cc: Members, Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining