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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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July 31, 2008

CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR
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TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

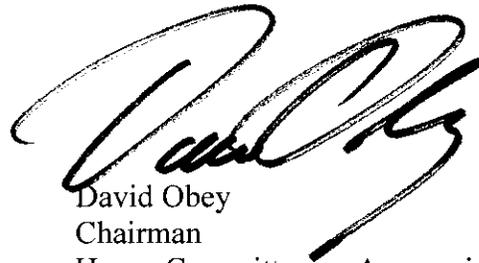
We are writing to ask for your immediate attention to the problem of providing critically needed additional funding for fighting forest fires. As you saw personally during your recent visit to California, the 2008 fire season is shaping up to be among the worst in history. Based on reports submitted to the Committee on July 29th, more than 8,000 separate fires have burned almost 4 million acres of forestlands. California has been particularly hard hit. Unfortunately, August and September are typically the most active months in the fire season, and we can expect a continuing fire emergency that will likely spread to other states and regions.

We now know that existing appropriations for fiscal year 2008 fire suppression costs will be inadequate. We urge you to submit a fiscal year 2008 supplemental request for the additional funding which the senior officials of your Administration have said are critically needed.

Sincerely,



Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies



David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations