



The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

January 17, 2020

Dear Congressman Panetta,

The nation's State Foresters applaud House Resolution 803- Recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United States and Australia to share critical firefighting resources during times of crisis.

Our hearts go out to the victims of Australia's devastating wildfires and their loved ones in this difficult time. And we mourn in solidarity with Australians for the firefighters who have tragically lost their lives protecting their communities.

State Foresters know all too well the dangers wildfire poses to life and property and the critical need for timely and efficient mobilization of shared wildland firefighting resources. No one state or country has the resources to go it alone in the fight against devastating and catastrophic wildfire. We must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in responding to these crises.

We commend the action taken by Congress in recognition of this long-standing partnership and stand in support of this Resolution and the brave men and women who put their lives at risk to keep us safe from harm. Our thoughts are with the people of Australia.

Sincerely,

Greg Josten
NASF President
South Dakota State Forester

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

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