



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

AUGUST 25, 2021

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



Historic Wildfires

- ▶ So far in 2021, there have been **over 6,600 fires** and **over 1,400,000 acres burned in CA.**
- ▶ **Five of California's 10 largest wildfires on record occurred in 2020, and the state set a new record for acres burned.**
- ▶ While California's climate has always been fire prone, **climate change affects how long, hot, and dry fire seasons are.**
- ▶ Wildfires release carbon emissions, which in turn affect climate and drive climate change-related events that contribute to more wildfires.
- ▶ It is estimated that California **wildfire smoke likely led to at least 1,200 and as many as 3,000 excess California deaths** between August 1 and September 10, 2020 alone.

Congressman DeSaulnier's Efforts

- ▶ A champion of policies that promote sustainability, protect the environment, and mitigate the harmful effects of climate change beginning as a member of **the California Air Resources Board (CARB) (1997- 2006)** and the **Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) (1996-2006)**.
- ▶ Member of the **Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition** and the **Safe Climate Caucus**.
- ▶ **More than 10 efforts authored by Congressman DeSaulnier were included in the House-passed infrastructure bill**, including initiatives to expand access to electric vehicles and promote alternative modes of transportation like biking.
- ▶ **3 bills Congressman DeSaulnier authored were included in the House Select Committee's Climate Crisis Action Plan**. Those bills support environmentally friendly vehicles and technology, promote innovation in America's transportation systems, and improve transportation planning and decision making.
- ▶ **Introduced the Wildland Firefighter Recognition Act (H.R. 938)**, to require the Office of Personnel Management to develop a distinct wildland firefighter occupational series.

Legislation Mark Sponsors

- ▶ **Green New Deal Resolution (H.Res. 332)** – To call for the creation of a Green New Deal and outline steps to address climate change, environmental injustice, and access to good-paying jobs over 10 years.
- ▶ **Transform, Heal, and Renew by Investing in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE) Act (H.R. 2919)** – To invest \$1 trillion per year until 2031 to create 15 million union jobs that address climate change and advance gender, environmental, Indigenous, economic, and racial justice.
- ▶ **FEMA Climate Change Preparedness Act (H.R. 744)** – To direct FEMA to recognize and act on climate change.
- ▶ **Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act (H.R. 8632)** – To provide for ocean-based climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and global warming; to make coastal communities more resilient; and to provide for the conservation and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats.
- ▶ **Smoke Planning and Research Act (H.R. 4641)** – To direct the EPA to conduct research on wildfire smoke and would provide grants to states, tribes, and local governments to plan and respond to wildfire smoke.
- ▶ **Wildfire Recovery Act (H.R. 1066)** – To make changes to the federal cost share for Fire Management Assistance Grants and ensure that the federal share is not less than 75% of the eligible cost.

Resources

- ▶ **Contra Costa County**
 - ▶ Community Warning System (CWS) - to register to receive fire evacuation alerts (and other emergency alerts), please visit: <https://cwsalerts.com/>.
 - ▶ Access Contra Costa County Fire Protection District resources on how to protect your family and home from wildfire by visiting: <https://www.cccfpd.org/wildfireprep>.
- ▶ **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)**
 - ▶ To build your personalized Wildfire Preparedness Plan and get text messages on active CAL FIRE incidents use the Ready For Wildfire App by visiting: <https://plan.readyforwildfire.org/>.
- ▶ **California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)**
 - ▶ For information on active fire incidents, air quality information, wildfire recovery resources, and more visit: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/>.
- ▶ **Information on Air Quality**
 - ▶ To get air quality data where you live, visit: <https://www.airnow.gov/>.
 - ▶ For air quality advisories, visit Bay Area Air Quality Management District: <https://www.baaqmd.gov/>
- ▶ **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
 - ▶ Download the FEMA app to receive real-time alerts, information about shelters and disaster recovery centers, register for disaster assistance, and more.

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