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March 9, 2023

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## **Counties, Cities, Industry Groups File Motion to Intervene in Court Case to Protect Firefighters' Ability to Use Best Tools to Combat Wildfires**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA** – Highlighting the dramatic public interest concerns that would arise if the U.S. Forest Service were precluded from using its full suite of options to protect communities and habitat from wildfires, an extraordinarily broad coalition of parties – including counties, cities and industry groups – filed a motion to intervene in a case challenging the U.S. Forest Service's ability to use chemical fire retardant to combat wildfires while it seeks a permit.

The California Forestry Association joined the Town of Paradise, California, which was devastated in the 2018 Camp Fire, Butte and Plumas counties, California, Rural County Representatives of California, American Forest Resource Council, National Alliance of Forest Owners, Federal Forest Resource Coalition, Montana Wood Products Association, Oregon Forest Industry Council, Washington Forest Protection Association, California Farm Bureau, National Wildfire Suppression Association, and California Women for Agriculture in petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana to join the case brought in October 2022 by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

The parties contend that as wildfires grow in size, frequency and devastation, firefighters need every tool to suppress fires and protect lives, homes and habitat. Wildfires across the West are responsible for the mass destruction of communities, forestland and agricultural land, burning far hotter and longer than the ground can sustain, taking years for the ground to begin to recover.

“Maintaining healthy forests supports the economy in Northern California and beyond and safeguards communities at risk from catastrophic wildfire, but prevention is not enough,” **said Matt Dias, president and CEO of Calforests.** “We must be able to fight wildfires with everything we have, and limiting the U.S. Forest Service's ability to do so flies in the face of forest conservation and preservation. Fire retardants save lives — just ask the surviving residents of Paradise. The U.S. Forest Service must be allowed to use flame retardants while the permitting process is moving forward, or we haven't seen the worst of wildfires.”

The motion to intervene can be found here:

[Brief ISO Motion to Intervene](#)  
[Motion to Intervene](#)