



Nov. 3, 2017

Rep. Mike Thompson
CA District 5 Santa Rosa Office
2300 County Center Drive, Suite A100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Rep. Thompson,

As you are well aware, nearly 3,000 Santa Rosa families lost their homes in the Tubbs Fire, which ravaged several of our city's neighborhoods on the night of Oct. 8-9. Every one of these families suffered a devastating blow that night, and we in city government have worked hard ever since to help each of them onto the long road to recovery.

Unfortunately, this week, we learned that our Republican Congress has opened up a huge pothole along that road.

The GOP's tax plan that was unveiled on Thursday ends a long-standing provision in the tax code that allows taxpayers who are victims of disaster to offset the financial blow caused by uninsured losses. In other words, victims of last month's California firestorms who lost everything to the flames now are losing what small relief had historically been available to them from the federal tax code.

This is unfair. It is wrong. It is kicking these folks when they are already down.

To make a bad situation worse, the GOP plan has grandfathered in the uninsured victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which struck Texas and Florida just a few weeks prior to the California fires. This smacks of political favoritism for states that have supported our Republican Administration. Please, let's not play politics with families who are suffering the very real impacts and challenges of recovering from this fire disaster.

Mike, I know you do not support this plan and will fight against it. Please know that I and all citizens of Santa Rosa stand with you in this fight. Let's do everything we can to take care of those who have suffered in our state's wildfires, and insist that our federal tax plan treats all disaster victims in a fair and equitable manner.

Thank you

Chris Coursey
Mayor

Santa Rosa, California

CHRIS COURSEY
Mayor

JACK TIBBETTS
Vice Mayor

JULIE COMBS
ERNESTO OLIVARES
CHRIS ROGERS
JOHN SAWYER
TOM SCHWEDHELM