



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Huffman:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 5863, which would ensure that fire survivors have the tax relief they need to fully recover and rebuild their lives. We respectfully request that you co-sponsor this important piece of tax relief legislation.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

To rebuild their lives, fire survivors need 100% of their claims. Unfair taxation adds pain and suffering to what has already been unimaginable loss. Adding to this unfair taxation, disaster victims are required to pay federal income taxes on attorney fees. Additionally, considering claims as income and taxable, has the unfortunate effect of pushing claimants into higher tax brackets and this can put public assistance and VA benefits at risk for what is a one-time event.

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

H.R. 5863 encompasses more than Fire Victim Trust claimants and would include fire victims from Colorado, Arizona and other California communities. The current Fire Victim Trust includes nearly 70,000 victims of various fires in California, including the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fires.

We thank you for your ongoing support for our community and continuing to help fire survivors not only in our community but across the state recover and rebuild their lives.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers
Mayor