City of Santa Rosa

September 5, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to thank you for your continued efforts to help our community prepare for and respond to the ongoing threats of wildfires and request your support for the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act (S. 1686), which would permanently authorize the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

During the City's recovery efforts post 2017 fires, the City reached out to multiple federal agencies for assistance. One specific agency that the City coordinated with was HUD. Fortunately, in the spring of 2018, HUD allocated $124 million in CDBG-DR funds to California for various recovery needs, including housing.

The CDBG-DR allocation provided the State with the flexibility to allocate these crucial funds, however there was some confusion about how much and whether the State could provide direct allocations to local communities such as Santa Rosa. Fortunately, the City met with the HUD officials and the State to come to an agreement that the City could receive over $70 million in CDBDG-DR funding, including Mitigation funding.

The Reforming Disaster Recovery Act will allow communities, like Santa Rosa, to begin the process of recovery as soon as a natural disaster impacts a community. Instead of having to wait months or years for assistance, this bipartisan legislation gives impacted areas access to relief resources immediately. It streamlines the road to recovery, allowing residents and businesses to focus solely on rebuilding their community instead of dealing with potential delays.

The Reforming Disaster Recovery Act will provide Santa Rosa and other disaster-impacted areas with the resources needed to build back a stronger community. We urge you to co-sponsor this important legislation and work with your colleagues that it is signed into law this year.

We thank you for your continuous support as we work to build a more resilient and prepared community.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

Office of the Mayor
100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 10 • Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone: (707) 543-3010 • Fax: (707) 543-3030
www.srcity.org