OFFICE OF THE OKANOGAN COUNTY SHERIFF

ANTHONY D. HAWLEY, SHERIFF

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08/23/2021

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4704

Dear Mr. Newhouse,

The impacts of the 2021 wildfire season in Okanogan County have had an increased affect due to the drought the county is enduring. These major wildfires began in early July and they are continuing to affect the community. In total, these catastrophic wildfires have consumed over 260,000 acres in Okanogan County. While several towns and communities have had to evacuate their homes for their personal safety, the entire region feels the daily impact of the hazardous air conditions due to the smoke. These fires have interrupted commerce and tourism to the area by closing State Route 20 as well as destroyed thousands of acres of our timber resources and the grazing land our ranchers depend on to feed their herds.

I appreciate your efforts to bring Secretary Vilsack of the Department of Agriculture and Secretary Haaland of the Department of Interior to Okanogan County so they are able to get a first hand look at this destruction and the impacts these fires have had on our communities.

Getting more firefighting resources available to our area to put out these fires needs to be a top priority. We will also require continued resources and support for the future efforts to recover these lands back to healthy timber resource, grazing lands and recreational attraction for Okanogan County.

Sincerely,

Anthony D. Hawley
Sheriff

ADMINISTRATION	INVESTIGATIONS	COMMUNICATIONS	CORRECTIONS	CIVIL
AARON CULP *Undersheriff*	LAURA WRIGHT *Chief Criminal Deputy*	MIKE WORDEN *Chief Special Operations Deputy*	TAMMI DENNEY *Chief Corrections Deputy*	BETH BARKER *Chief Civil Deputy*

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