

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Tom Tidwell, Chief  
United States Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0003

Dear Chief Tidwell:

We write to you today with extreme urgency regarding the catastrophic wildfire burning uncontrolled in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. The High Park Fire has already consumed over 35,000 acres, burned dozens of structures, forced the evacuation of more than two thousand people, and the fire is only three days old. Hundreds of firefighters, volunteers and other first responders are working tirelessly to save lives and property. Yet drought conditions, steep and rough terrain, along with beetle-killed trees are fueling a fire that has a dangerous upper hand. It is the worst case scenario.

Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith has stated that there is "no hope for containment" of the High Park Fire. Therefore, we are requesting that you act with great speed to coordinate, mobilize and acquire all necessary resources -- including additional air resources -- to respond to this devastating wildfire.

We cannot stress enough the high concern for this fire - emergency personnel believe the High Park Fire is a perfect storm of conditions and location. There is no time for delay. In particular, the need for air resources is dire.

Thank you for your prompt attention. Our offices stand ready to assist you should you have any questions or need any assistance regarding this request.

Our prayers and heartfelt thanks continue to be with those on the front lines of the fire.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman

Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator

Mark Udall

Mark Udall  
U.S. Senator