



August 2, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Support of H.R. 4970 to amend IRS Code of 1986 for certain fire victims' claimants

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

I applaud your unwavering support for wildfire recovery and resilience policy over the years. You have been a true advocate helping families and communities recover from devastating wildfires, in California and throughout the nation. As the Trustee of the Fire Victim Trust (FVT), I am writing to request your support for H.R. 4970 sponsored by Congressman Doug LaMalfa, with co-sponsorship and significant support by Congressman Mike Thompson along with nine other co-sponsors. This measure will create a single, broad tax exemption for payments compensating wildfire victims for their disaster losses.

The FVT was established in July 2020 as a result of the PG&E Bankruptcy settlement. The FVT evaluates, administers processes and resolves eligible claims arising from the 2015 Butte Fire, 2017 North Bay Fires, and the 2018 Camp Fire. As of July 31, 2023, the FVT has paid over \$10 billion to claimants and provided determination notices to 98% of all claimants. The fact that families and businesses will have to pay taxes on these claims is unconscionable. By creating this exemption, you are protecting fire victims who are struggling to rebuild their lives, homes and businesses.

Monetary compensation received after losing one's home or business should not be regarded as income in the same way as wages or benefits. If it is, a series of unintended consequences may perpetuate additional barriers and burdens to their recovery.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for your continued advocacy, partnership, and support for fire victims throughout Northern California. We urge you to continue that support and move H.R. 4970 forward, making sure these important policies protect Fire Victim Trust claimants.

If you have any questions, please contact Darby Kernan at 916-284-9872 or dkernan@mosaicsol.com. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Yanni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Cathy Yanni
Trustee



August 2, 2023

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support of H.R. 4970 to amend IRS Code of 1986 for certain fire survivors' claimants

Dear Minority Leader Jeffries,

I applaud your unwavering support for wildfire recovery and resilience policy over the years. You have been a true advocate helping families and communities recover from devastating wildfires throughout the nation. As the Trustee of the Fire Victims Trust (FVT), I am writing to request your support for H.R. 4970 sponsored by Congressman Doug LaMalfa, with co-sponsorship and significant support by Congressman Mike Thompson along with nine other co-sponsors. This measure will create a single, broad tax exemption for payments compensating wildfire victims for their disaster losses.

The FVT was established in July 2020 as a result of the PG&E Bankruptcy settlement. The FVT evaluates, administers processes and resolves eligible claims arising from the 2015 Butte Fire, 2017 North Bay Fires, and the 2018 Camp Fire. As of January 31, 2023, the FVT has paid over \$10 billion to claimants and provided determination notices to 98% of all claims. The fact that families and businesses will have to pay taxes on these claims, as well as attorney fees, adds insult to injury. By creating this exemption, you are keeping money in the pockets of fire survivors who are struggling to rebuild their lives, homes and businesses.

I believe that the monetary compensation received after losing one's home or business should not be regarded as income in the same way that wages or benefits are. If it is, a series of unintended consequences might take place and perpetuate more barriers and burdens within the recovery process, making individuals who have lost everything come up against the potential loss of benefits and increased taxes.

Mr. Minority Leader, thank you again for your continued advocacy, partnership, and support for fire victims throughout Northern California. We urge you to continue that support and move H.R. 4970 forward, making sure these important policies protect PG&E claimants in the Fire Victim Trust process.

If you have any questions, please contact Darby Kernan at 916-284-9872 or dkernan@mosaicso.com. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Yanni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Cathy Yanni
Trustee



August 2, 2023

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
268 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Introduction and Support of H.R. 4970 to amend IRS Code of 1986 for certain fire survivors' claimants

Dear Representative LaMalfa and Representative Thompson,

As the Trustee of the Fire Victim Trust (FVT), I write to thank you for the introduction of H.R. 4970, which creates a single, broad tax exemption for payment compensation to wildfire victims for their disaster losses. The FVT has supported your past efforts in excluding gross income settlements from the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and appreciate your continued commitment to fighting on behalf of the people of California. This bill, and your support, is invaluable to the individuals you are impacting.

The FVT was established in July 2020 as a result of the PG&E Bankruptcy settlement. The FVT evaluates, administers processes and resolves eligible claims arising from the 2015 Butte Fire, 2017 North Bay Fires, and the 2018 Camp Fire. As of July 31, 2023, the FVT has paid over \$10 billion to claimants and provided determination notices to 98% of all claimants. The fact that families and businesses will have to pay taxes on these claims is unconscionable. By creating and championing this exemption, you are protecting fire survivors who are struggling to rebuild their lives, homes and businesses.

Monetary compensation received after losing one's home or business should not be regarded as income in the same way as wages or benefits. If it is, a series of unintended consequences may perpetuate additional barriers and burdens to their recovery.

Thank you again for your continued advocacy, partnership, and support for fire victims.

If you have any questions, please contact Darby Kernan at 916-284-9872 or dkernan@mosaicsol.com. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Gianni". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cathy Gianni
Trustee