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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

**COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX, AND CAPITAL ACCESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INNOVATION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

January 12, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Aguilar  
Chair, House Democratic Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Green  
Chair  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Scalise, Minority Whip Clark, Majority Whip Emmer, Chair Aguilar, Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Green, and Ranking Member Thompson:

On Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, a series of fires driven by hurricane-force winds ignited across the Los Angeles region. The Eaton, Palisades, Hurst, Creek, Lidia, and Kenneth Fires have already burned over 35,000 acres, destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, displaced tens of thousands of Southern California residents, and taken at least 16 lives. Across Los Angeles County, experts

estimate upwards of \$150 billion in potential economic costs from this past week's wildfires. The Eaton Fire alone, impacting my congressional district, has burned more than 14,000 acres, destroyed over 7,000 structures, left 20,000 homeless, forced numerous health centers to close, and burned several schools to the ground.

Given the scale of destruction across communities I represent, I invite you to tour the damage and devastation caused by the Eaton Fire. I ask you to join me in meeting with those who have suffered unimaginable losses, seeing the devastation firsthand, and hearing from heroic first responders about their diligent, unrelenting service in fighting these unprecedented wildfires. Your partnership is absolutely essential to demonstrating unified, strong support for those who have lost loved ones or returned to their home or business to find nothing left. The victims of the Eaton Fire and other fires across Southern California are relying on Congress to pass bipartisan emergency disaster appropriations legislation to support a long recovery. I stand ready to work with you to ensure that Congress can, as it has in the past, provide robust funding on a bipartisan basis for disaster relief and disaster victims impacted this crisis.

I am deeply appreciative of Governor Newsom's rapid State of Emergency declaration in response to the wildfires and the Biden-Harris Administration's swift approval of several Fire Management Assistance Grants to reimburse California for immediate firefighting costs, as well as their immediate approval of California's request for a Major Disaster Declaration. This declaration has strengthened coordination on response and relief efforts and ensures access to all categories of public assistance, individual assistance, and direct federal assistance for affected communities, but additional response and recovery assistance is urgently needed as we navigate a path toward recovery. That is why Congress must work together to provide emergency disaster appropriations that will help Southern California rebuild.

It is my sincere hope that you will accept this invitation to tour the damage caused by the Eaton Fire in my congressional district, and I look forward to working with you to secure critical disaster relief funding that is necessary for this vibrant, beautiful, unique region to recover and rebuild.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Chu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress