

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 26, 2019

Mr. Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

We are writing to obtain additional information regarding any potential federal assistance for the Trafalgar Road fire in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

As you know, the Trafalgar Road fire continues to burn. To date, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided resources to the state for air monitoring, legal advice, and engineering tactics to assist the state in controlling the fire. Arkansas's congressional delegation along with the local and state officials acknowledge and appreciate this assistance as well as the technical assistance provided by the EPA Region 6 Office in Dallas, Texas.

As we continue to learn more about the situation, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the state of Arkansas will require federal assistance to address the issue. We understand the law provides for a particular threshold of scientific data to trigger the EPA's assistance on these types of environmental projects. It is the delegation's intention to learn specifically what can be done at the federal level when the threshold is met so we can readily partner with the EPA to ensure funds and resources are swiftly dispatched to the state.

To better understand how the federal government can best assist the state, we ask the EPA to provide the following as soon as possible:

- (1) the precise threshold of scientific data that would trigger EPA's emergency response;
- (2) any and all options from which the state may receive financial assistance; and
- (3) an air monitoring system that receives continuous information over an extended period of time for reliable and up-to-date data.

We look forward to continuing to work with the EPA to help the state of Arkansas best address the Trafalgar Road fire. Once again, we appreciate the time and diligence you and the EPA have given to this matter.

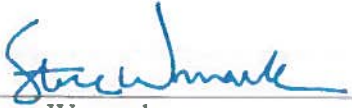
Sincerely,



John Boozman
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Steve Womack
Member of Congress