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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I have sent the enclosed letters on behalf of the County to Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Minority Member Nadler of the House Committee on the Judiciary, urging them to expedite action on H.R. 1138, the *Wildfire Airspace Protection Act of 2017*.

The use of drones continues to expand nationwide, but laws and regulations governing their usage have not kept pace with the technology. There have been several incidences in Southern California during which unregulated drone use has forced aerial firefighting operations over uncontrolled wild fires to be suspended due to the threat that the drone posed to low-flying planes and helicopters. This in turn heightened the risk to firefighters on the ground, as well as the threat to homes and other structures in the area.

Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Judiciary Committee to take action on the *Wildfire Airspace Protection Act of 2017*, or similar legislation to address this threat to public safety. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

DWG: awg  
Enclosures