

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Press@GrassrootsWildlandFirefighters.com

Grassroots Wildland Firefighters Thank the Community and Urge Passage of Wildland Firefighter Pay Protection Act

United States – Today, Grassroots Wildland Firefighters would like to thank American wildland firefighters across the nation for their collective voice warning of the impending fiscal cliff as funding for a temporary pay raise from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is set to run out. At the end of September, federal wildland firefighters will see a drastic reduction in their take home pay if Congress doesn't produce a permanent pay fix. Luke Mayfield, President, praised the wildland fire community. **"From our work behind the scenes, we have every reason to believe our petition calling for Congress to act caught the attention of key legislators in both parties. We cannot thank the wildland fire community and their supporters enough for raising their voices and sharing their stories in an amazing call to action."** Mayfield further added, **"Not only do these dedicated men and women show up for every wildfire, but they have shown up to bring attention to the sacrifices they and their families make every day in service to the American people."**

On June 27th, 2023, [Grassroots Wildland Firefighters put in motion a petition](#) to tell Congress what's at stake if they don't create a permanent pay solution. Within two week's time, over 12,000 wildland firefighters and concerned members of the public have signed their names and shared what will happen if Congress fails to act. The petition will be delivered to legislators the first week of August.

The Wildland Firefighter Pay Protection Act (WFPPA), introduced Wednesday by a group of bipartisan lawmakers, would be another step in the right direction towards comprehensive reforms. Bobbie Scopa, Executive Secretary with Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, said, **"While not the comprehensive package we have been advocating for, it's another down payment in the investment of the federal wildfire management workforce, and we strongly urge members of Congress to pass this important legislation to help ensure the workforce can plan for a career future that sustains their families."**

"Wildland firefighters and support personnel are humble, quiet, hard-working professionals who normally prefer to not be in the spotlight. However, they know what is at stake for themselves and their families, and by signing our petition and sharing their stories they continue to honor their profession. We couldn't be prouder to represent them, and our work is not done," said Riva Duncan - Vice President, Grassroots Wildland Firefighters. **"We will continue to fight for comprehensive reforms."**

The text of the WFPPA is [HERE](#). A summary is available [HERE](#). The Petition to Tell Congress to Act is [HERE](#).

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