

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

Board of Supervisors

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GEORGE TURNBOO
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT II

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
47th President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Keeping Federal Promise To 2021 Caldor Fire Survivors

Dear President Donald J. Trump,

The residents of Grizzly Flats, CA, need your help rebuilding their community after the devastating 2021 Caldor Fire. The District 2 Office of Supervisor George Turnboo recognizes your consistent support for residents recovering from disasters. Our office appreciates your steadfast commitment to residents you represent and ensuring that the forgotten person is remembered. The Caldor Fire survivors were promised federal help, but since funding was never provided, the survivors feel as if they have been forgotten. Our office has made it our mission to petition the federal government to honor commitments to Caldor Fire survivors and prove that Grizzly Flats has not been forgotten.

The Caldor Fire initially erupted in August of 2021 in the area of the Trestle Project, and the US Forest Service (USFS) delayed the response to the fire, even calling off response when it was being enacted. By the time proper response was in action, the Caldor Fire had grown into a catastrophic wildfire. Eventually, the Caldor Fire destroyed Grizzly Flats, CA, and then moved eastward toward South Lake Tahoe, CA, to burn 221,835 acres of the Eldorado National Forest with \$1.2 billion estimated in damages as it progressed. Joe Biden and Gavin Newsom visited with Caldor Fire response crews and made it apparent that they felt it was a “federal issue” and promised FEMA assistance to those impacted. Once the residents returned to begin the clean-up effort, FEMA began to deny and delay assistance, even with letters of support from Gavin Newsom, Senators, Congressman and State and Local leaders representing El Dorado County. Caldor Fire survivors began to believe that their votes for Trump in 2020 and/or signing the recall petitions for Gavin Newsom, had led to a political segregation like what North Carolina experienced in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

The District 2 Office of Supervisor Turnboo has been working with HomeAid Sacramento to determine services they can provide to help Caldor Fire survivors rebuild homes. According to

HomeAid Sacramento, they estimate that they have the capacity and connections to rebuild homes for over a dozen families through charitable efforts. HomeAid Sacramento has a history of working in our region and providing homes for residents at low-cost or no-cost. Our office believes in HomeAid Sacramento and their ability to do the work needed on-time and on-budget.

In discussions with HomeAid Sacramento, they claim to need a funding amount of \$800,000 to \$1,500,000 to be able to complete homes for the remaining Caldor Fire survivors. Remaining residents needing homes are low-income, seniors on a fixed-income, veterans lacking proper assistance, or all three. The funding is essential to be able to provide homes for survivors, as homes are the missing piece of their puzzle in life. Local charities have been tapped-out of resources and no longer provide funding opportunities, state-level representatives have been unable to secure funding, so we believe that federal funding is our only hope.

Please keep the promise of federal help for Caldor Fire survivors who need funding to rebuild their homes, and thereby their lives. The District 2 Office of Supervisor Turnboo supports HomeAid Sacramento and funding their ability to provide homes for Caldor Fire survivors. Take into consideration all the political factors weighed against the residents of Grizzly Flats and the broken promises that have caused them to lose faith in government. We humbly ask that you remember the residents of Grizzly Flats who lost everything and prove that their government has not forgotten them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Turnboo', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

George Turnboo
District 2 Supervisor
County of El Dorado