

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

August 29, 2013

General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr.  
Commander, U.S. Northern Command  
250 Vandenberg St, Suite BO16  
Peterson AFB, CO 80914-3802

Lt. Gen. Michael Dubie  
Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command  
250 Vandenberg St, Suite BO16  
Peterson AFB, CO 80914-3802

Lt. Gen. William Etter  
Commander, Continental U.S. NORAD  
1210 Beacon Beach Rd, Suite 1  
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403

Dear General Jacoby, Lieutenant General Dubie, and Lieutenant General Etter:

As representatives of states that regularly cope with the devastation of horrific wildfires, we want to bring to your attention what we believe to be a promising wildfire-fighting concept. This concept, named Precision Container Aerial Delivery System (PCADS), offers an innovative approach to extinguishing wildfires. In our judgment, PCADS has the potential to reduce firefighting costs in the future while simultaneously increasing our firefighting capabilities, which is important in this time of limited resources.

PCADS, which are specially-designed biodegradable bladders encased in cardboard, are designed to be loaded into the back of military cargo aircraft. Using this concept, which is very similar to currently-existing air-droppable Container Delivery Systems (CDS), would allow us to use currently-existing military assets such as the C-17 and C-130 without having to modify the planes or acquire other expensive equipment. Because of PCADS' similarities to other Container Delivery Systems, we believe PCADS would require minimal training for airdrop-qualified crews. The PCADS bladders, which can be filled with water or retardant, are then dropped out of the back of the plane like any other CDS. The containers are specially designed to burst open before impact and accurately disburse water or retardant directly onto the wildfire.

This concept is consistent with the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard's existing requirements to assist in firefighting activities. Unlike other firefighting systems used by the Department of Defense (DOD), the use of PCADS will not have to rely on outside Federal Agencies to initiate the aerial firefighting mission. With this direct attack system, DOD will have the capability to respond faster and drop greater quantities of water than what is provided by existing DOD firefighting systems.

Having completed its first phase of testing (design validation), PCADS is now ready for operational testing, which we hope will be followed by a formal DOD requirement for PCADS. With the understanding that DOD already has the authority to proceed with operational testing and evaluation (OT&E) of PCADS, we respectfully request you to support this testing. Provided PCADS successfully completes all OT&E requirements, we hope DOD will continue moving forward with the adoption of PCADS by issuing a formal requirement for PCADS. The goal of PCADS is not to turn aerial firefighting into a primary DOD mission; rather, the goal is to provide

DOD with added flexibility by providing a new capability that, when requested, can extinguish wildfires more efficiently and cost-effectively.

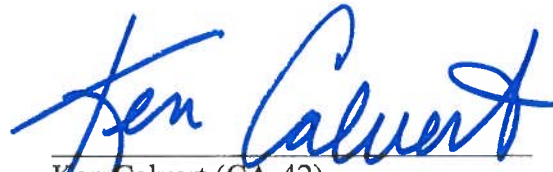
We fully appreciate that ultimately, the decision to commit additional funds to this program must rely upon a merit-based decision-making process. As outlined briefly above, however, we think the merits are easily demonstrable. Recognizing that budgets are tight, we believe these test funds will be well-spent in determining the true value of airdropping on wildfires.

Therefore, with your help, we hope that PCADS will become a valuable tool for use by the ANG and USAFR in combating wildfires. Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider the merits of PCADS OT&E testing and please let us know if you have any questions moving forward.

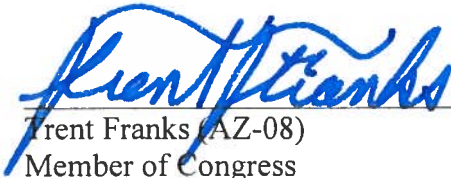
Sincerely,



Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert (CA-42)  
Member of Congress



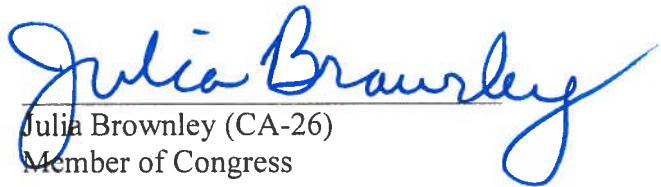
Trent Franks (AZ-08)  
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes (CA-22)  
Member of Congress



Ralph Hall (TX-04)  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley (CA-26)  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole (OK-04)  
Member of Congress