

## UAFA Letter of Support for Wildfire Water Solutions

In follow up to the joint statement UAFA released with the NWSA, dated January 15, 2025, requesting urgent congressional action, UAFA is sharing a letter of support for Wildfire Water Solutions (“WWS”). In our statement, we laid out three critical actions required from Congress:

1. Establish a National Fire Response Standard matching existing protocols for structure fires
2. Mandate and fund comprehensive community protection in fire-prone areas
3. Significantly increase federal funding for year-round response forces

WWS directly applies to critical action number two, **providing comprehensive protection in fire-prone areas**. Just as we invest in protecting our nation from external threats, we must create resilient defensive systems to shield our communities from this domestic danger. With over 44 million U.S. homes at risk in the Wildland Urban Interface, this investment in prevention is essential to preserving American lives and livelihoods. WWS is a critical asset that provides:

1. **Portable Water Conveyance at Industrial / Utility Scale** – A continuous water supply chain, from source to destination, at rates up to 150,000 gallons an hour and sources up to 50 miles away per mobile pipeline.
2. **Full Cycle Water Management** – The ability to recapture, recycle, and desalinate water for prevention, suppression, and consumption.
3. **Water Storage** – Semi-permanent storage capacities from 3,000 Gallons to 3,000,000 Gallons, strategically placed in small footprints where it’s needed most.
4. **Fire Expertise & Certification** – Decades of expertise in wildland firefighting and qualified certified crews, their entire organization values expertise gained in the trenches, working side by side, and puts command and safety above all else.
5. **Community Scale Defense** – Their mobile, and modular pipelines, pre-position to augment the domestic water system (alleviating dry hydrants), provide full perimeter and/or protective fronts between the community and the fire (with high-volume water monitors every 660ft), as well as support incident operations on the ground (engine/tender fill stations) and in the air (helo dip sites) with critical water.

How WWS benefits UAFA:

- **First Mile, Uninterrupted Water Supply Chain** – On an incident, water is passed discretely, from source to destination, one vessel at a time, intermittently. There is no continuous, uninterrupted supply, and there is no segmentation between “first mile” (transportation) and “last mile” (application) logistics. Traditional firefighting assets are the most expensive due to their diversity of application, specialization of equipment/expertise, and high mix of labor to operate. WWS is not a substitute for these

critical resources, but a force multiplier. By bringing water, from source to destination, they put more water, continuously, in the tanks and hands of those at risk on the front lines, allowing incident command to maximize for highest and best use – to fight fire aggressively providing for safety first.

- **Remote Ridge Line Dip Sites for Increased Productivity & Safety** – Their systems, which increase and enable more strategically placed helo dip sites, especially along remote ridgelines, are a game-changer. Their capabilities support working circles of 5 miles (or less), increasing productivity by realizing more drops per hour. Additionally, with the ability to create multiple remote dip sites, these systems greatly increase the safety factor, spreading out aerial traffic and relieving stacking on any one dip site.

Started by firefighters for firefighters, their dedication to responsible and sustainable water sourcing practices, and commitment to insuring those who risk their lives on the ground and in the air have the critical water needed to scale in the fight against wildfire, is a valuable resource for the firefighting community. This new style of high-volume water delivery and community defense system in the wildland-urban environment is critical and will significantly enhance the effectiveness and safety of aerial firefighting operations.

Sincerely,

Paul Petersen *Paul Petersen*

[media@uafa.org](mailto:media@uafa.org)

202-670-4076