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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

August 6, 2025

The Right Honorable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We write to you today on behalf of our constituents in New York especially in Upstate communities near the Canadian border who are again dealing with unacceptable levels of smoke from Canadian wildfires. As the 2025 wildfire season intensifies we are concerned about the continued impact of this smoke on air quality, health, and daily life.

Wildfire smoke is now a regular issue in New York. In June, air quality alerts were issued as smoke from Ontario and Quebec moved south. Similar alerts were issued throughout July affecting the Capital Region, Hudson Valley, and New York City. State officials have advised residents to limit outdoor activity. Schools, camps, and events have been impacted. Families across the state are forced to stay indoors during summer, a time usually spent outside.

This is not a new problem. In 2023, Canada saw its worst wildfire season on record with more than 45 million acres burned. Smoke from those fires spread into New York and other states creating health risks and disrupting daily activity. The 2024 season brought similar issues. Signs this year point to another severe season. The scale and severity of these fires continues to raise concerns about forest mismanagement and lack of effective deterrence of human-caused fire.

New Yorkers are at risk from Canadian wildfire smoke. For that reason, we urge you to direct Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Forest Service to improve wildfire prevention and response. We also encourage more direct communication and collaboration between agencies on both sides of the border.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your response and to learning how your government plans to deal with this issue going forward.

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elise M. Stefanik in blue ink.

Elise M. Stefanik
Chairwoman
House Republican Leadership

Handwritten signature of Nick Langworthy in black ink.

Nick Langworthy
Member of Congress