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**Heller Announces $684,689 National Science Foundation Award for Wildfire Smoke & Air Quality Research**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today announced that the National Science Foundation (NSF) will award the University of Nevada, Reno $684,689 to research air quality forecasting for wildfire smoke so that communities can provide well-timed health alerts.

“At a time when Nevadans continue to face devastating wildfires across the state, I welcome the National Science Foundation’s support for research that will help mitigate future health hazards caused by wildfire smoke,” **said Heller.** “As a strong advocate for Nevada’s ability to detect, protect against, and recover from wildfires, I will continue to promote policies that protect the health, wellness, and safety of Nevadans facing threats from wildfires throughout the state.”

In August, after the state was denied a request for resources to help fight the South Sugarloaf Fire, [Heller urged the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to reconsider the criteria required to qualify for wildfire assistance grants through the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) program](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CEFE3BE5-B363-443A-9A95-991D1A3EECDC). That letter is available [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CEFE3BE5-B363-443A-9A95-991D1A3EECDC). Additionally, earlier this month, Heller joined his colleagues and fellow members of the U.S. Senate Western Caucus in [urging robust forest management reforms](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0ECD0698-E016-4C10-B1AF-53CCD76557DA) that will reduce the risk and severity of catastrophic wildfires to be included in the final Farm Bill. [He also recently requested that the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources further explore the impact of these deadly blazes and consider important forestry reform solutions](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CAABBEFC-6E38-4B4E-A86D-B88AF568D5A8).

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