

November 13, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Passage of the Fix Our Forests Act in the 119th Congress

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We represent a broad coalition of organizations ranging from regional fire service entities, emergency managers, conservation groups, foresters, ranchers, the broad business community, and groups focused on community safety, forest health, and affordability. **We are in agreement that Congress must act now to address the wildfire crisis by swiftly passing the Fix Our Forests Act before the end of the year.**

Wildfires are only increasing in intensity and severity. In the 2026 fire year, over 66,000 wildfires burned over 9 million acres – an area larger than the state of Maryland. The toll on communities and first responders continues to be significant and far-reaching. This year, 17 wildland firefighters tragically lost their lives in the line of duty. Utah experienced its worst fire season in nearly 20 years with over 500,000 acres burned. Spokane, Washington was also devastated by wildfire, losing over 600 homes and another 2,500 structures damaged. Without

immediate action from Congress, wildfires will continue to decimate ecosystems and communities across the United States.

Reducing that risk takes planning and sustained work before a fire starts. Delaying action leaves our firefighters, land managers, and communities without the proper tools they need. The bipartisan, bicameral Fix Our Forests Act will provide the critical tools necessary to improve real-time decision-making, streamline fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface, increase risk reduction through prescribed fire, and build resilient communities. The Fix Our Forests Act will allow practitioners and communities to be proactive in mitigating against wildfires, reducing risks, avoiding costs and losses, and ensuring long term economic growth.

A future with high-intensity wildfires is unsustainable and costly. It is clear that the wildfire crisis isn't waiting and the next destructive wildfire can spark at any time. Congress must act now to protect communities, first responders, and forest health.

We respectfully urge Congress to pass the Fix Our Forests Act before the end of the 119th Congress to protect American communities from the threat of wildfires. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

CC: The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Sincerely,

Alliance for Wildfire Resilience Action
American Conservation Coalition Action
American Forests
American Property Casualty Insurance Association
Association of Firetech Innovation
Bipartisan Policy Center Action
BuildStrong America
C3 Solutions Action
Citizens Climate Lobby
City of Flagstaff, Arizona
Climate and Wildfire Institute
Coconino County, Arizona
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Douglas County, Washington
Earth Fire Alliance
Edison Electric Institute
Federation of American Scientists
FireWERX
Forterra
Fund for a Better Future
Grassroots Wildland Firefighters
Inclusive Abundance Action
International Association of Fire Chiefs

Megafire Action
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Association of State Foresters
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Prime Minute
Property and Environment Research Center
Public Lands Council
Reinsurance Association of America
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Spatial Informatics Group - Natural Asset Laboratory
Spatial Informatics Group, LLC
Tall Timbers Research Station
The Breakthrough Institute
The Nature Conservancy
The Stewardship Project
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Aerial Firefighters Association
Vibrant Planet
Western Fire Chiefs Association