

PARTNER CAUCUS on FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING SOLUTIONS

MAY 1, 2015

Support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act

Dear Members of Congress,

Please support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, H.R. 167 and S. 235. This important legislation will reform how wildfire suppression is funded, in order to significantly minimize the harmful practice of transferring funds from critical programs to pay for wildfire suppression. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act would fund response to the few most disastrous wildfires similar to how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds other disaster response under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. This would put wildfire disasters on par, and without competing, with funding for response to other natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

Wildfire seasons are getting longer and major wildfires are becoming increasingly more costly to suppress. This national problem is causing a crippling burden on the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service's land management functions as they shift resources to fund suppression activities. Federal wildfire suppression will always be fully funded by the government – even if it comes at the expense of programs that improve forest health and mitigate future wildfires. However, this current *ad hoc* process of funding wildfire is inefficient and ineffective in delivering on nationwide agency land management priorities set by Congress and virtually assures that overall federal outlays will increase.

The Partner Caucus came together in 2009, representing a diverse set of international, national and local organizations interested in sustainable forest management on private, tribal, municipal, state and federal lands. We see a critical need to reform how suppression is funded, so other land management programs – many of which reduce long-term fire risk – are not impacted.

We urge Congress to adopt the solution offered by the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act. The new funding process it enables would place those wildfire disaster response activities commensurate with other natural disasters and provide federal agencies the tools and resources needed to successfully manage wildfires while investing in the health of forests and other lands. The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act is a critically important step to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our nation's forests and other public lands.

Sincerely,

Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solution

For information regarding this letter or members of the Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions, please contact Cecilia Clavet, cclavet@mc.org, 703-841-7425.

Signed by the following 261 organizations:

1. 3 LEGS COLLABORATION SERVICES
2. ALAMO NAVAJO SCHOOL BOARD, INC
3. ALLEGHENY HARDWOOD UTILIZATION GROUP
4. ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES
5. AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

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6. AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION | CANOE - KAYAK - SUP - RAFT - RESCUE
7. AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
8. AMERICAN FOREST & PAPER ASSOCIATION
9. AMERICAN FOREST FOUNDATION
10. AMERICAN FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL
11. AMERICAN FORESTS
12. AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY
13. AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS
14. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
15. APPLGATE PARTNERSHIP AND WATERSHED COUNCIL
16. ARID LAND INNOVATION
17. ARIZONA CONSERVATION CORPS
18. ARIZONA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
19. ARIZONA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL
20. ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
21. ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
22. ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
23. ASSOCIATION OF PARTNERS FOR PUBLIC LANDS
24. BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS
25. BLACK HILLS FOREST RESOURCE ASSOCIATION
26. BLACK HILLS REGIONAL MULTIPLE USE COALITION
27. BLACK HILLS RESOURCE, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT
28. BLACK HILLS WOMEN IN TIMBER
29. BLUE GOOSE ALLIANCE
30. BLUE MOUNTAINS FOREST PARTNERS
31. BOULDER COUNTY, CO
32. BRL SERVICES INC/BRL LOGGING
33. BULL MOOSE SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE
34. CALIFORNIA DEER ASSOCIATION
35. CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
36. CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
37. CALIFORNIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
38. CALIFORNIA SKI INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
39. CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL
40. CANYON COUNTRY YOUTH CORPS
41. CATCH-A-DREAM FOUNDATION
42. CENTER FOR HEIRS' PROPERTY PRESERVATION
43. CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
44. CENTRAL OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
45. CHOOSE OUTDOORS
46. CITY OF ASHLAND, OR
47. CITY OF ASPEN, CO
48. CITY OF BEND, OR
49. CITY OF DURANGO, CO
50. CITY OF KETCHUM, ID
51. CIVIL WAR TRUST
52. CLEAN WATER ACTION
53. CLEARWATER RESOURCE COUNCIL
54. COLORADO TIMBER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
55. CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION
56. CONSERVATION LEGACY
57. CONSERVATION NORTHWEST
58. CONSERVATIONCORPS, MN& IA
59. CRILEY CONSULTING
60. DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
61. DUCKS UNLIMITED
62. EARTHJUSTICE
63. EASTERN ARIZONA COUNTIES ORGANIZATION
64. ECOSYSTEM WORKFORCE PROGRAM
65. EL TESORO RETREAT CENTER
66. ELLIOTSVILLE PLANTATION, INC
67. ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION
68. ENVIRONMENT AMERICA
69. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE
70. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS
71. ESTRADA COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, LLC
72. FEDERAL FOREST RESOURCE COALITION

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73. FIREFIGHTERS UNITED FOR SAFETY, ETHICS, AND ECOLOGY (FUSEE)
74. FLAGSTAFF FIRE DEPARTMENT
75. FLATHEAD ECONOMIC POLICY CENTER
76. FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
77. FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY
78. FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY OF NORTH CAROLINA
79. FOREST BUSINESS NETWORK
80. FOREST COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
81. FOREST ENERGY CORPORATION
82. FOREST GUILD
83. FOREST HEALTH TASK FORCE
84. FOUR FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (4FRI)
85. FOURTH SECTOR STRATEGIES
86. FRAMING OUR COMMUNITY, INC
87. FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
88. FRIENDS OF THE URBAN FOREST
89. FRONT RANGE ROUNDTABLE
90. FUTURE FOREST, LLC
91. GILA TREE THINNERS
92. GILA WOODNET
93. GLOBAL PARKS
94. GRASSROOTS OUTDOOR ALLIANCE
95. GREAT LAKES TIMBER PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
96. GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS
97. GREATER FLAGSTAFF FORESTS PARTNERSHIP
98. GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION
99. HARDWOOD FEDERATION
100. HAWKS ALOFT, INC
101. IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE
102. IDAHO FOREST GROUP
103. IDAHO FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION
104. IDAHO POWER COMPANY
105. ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION
106. INDIANA FORESTRY & WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
107. INTERMOUNTAIN FOREST ASSOCIATION
108. INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION
109. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
110. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WILDLAND FIRE
111. INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION
112. INTERTRIBAL TIMBER COUNCIL
113. JARA LANDWORKS
114. KHII RADIO
115. LAND TRUST FOR THE LITTLE TENNESSEE
116. LAKE COUNTY RESOURCES INITIATIVE
117. LEMHI COUNTY
118. LITTLE COLORADO RIVER PLATEAU RC&D
119. LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT
120. LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH
121. LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
122. MAINE AUDUBON
123. MAINLAND PLANNING, INC
124. MASS AUDUBON
125. MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS
126. MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION
127. MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT
128. MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION
129. MCCUTCHANVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT
130. MID KLAMATH WATERSHED COUNCIL
131. MONTANA CONSERVATION CORPS
132. MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION
133. MONTANA WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
134. MOTTEK CONSULTING
135. MOUNTAIN STATES LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION
136. MT ADAMS RESOURCE STEWARDS
137. MT TAYLOR MACHINE, LLC
138. MULE DEER FOUNDATION

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139. NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FOREST OWNERS
140. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
141. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREES
142. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS
143. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY FOREST RESOURCES PROGRAMS
144. NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION
145. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
146. NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS
147. NATIONAL NETWORK OF FOREST PRACTITIONERS
148. NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
149. NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
150. NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION
151. NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
152. NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL
153. NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
154. NATIONAL WILDFIRE INSTITUTE
155. NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
156. NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION
157. NATIONAL WOODLAND OWNERS
158. NEVADA CONSERVATION CORPS
159. NEW MEXICO FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
160. NEW MEXICO PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL
161. NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE
162. NORTHBROOK PUBLIC WORKS
163. NORTHERN ARIZONA WOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
164. NORTHERN FOREST CENTER
165. NORTHWEST CONNECTIONS
166. NORTHWEST FOREST WORKER CENTER
167. NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS
168. OHIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
169. OUTDOOR ALLIANCE
170. OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
171. PARK CITY, UT
172. PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL AMERICA
173. PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM
174. PHEASANTS FOREVER/QUAILS FOREVER
175. PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION
176. POPE AND YOUNG CLUB
177. PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL
178. PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION
179. PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE COALITION
180. QUAIL AND UPLAND WILDLIFE FEDERATION
181. QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
182. RECREATION EQUIPMENT INC (REI)
183. RENSSELAER PLATEAU ALLIANCE
184. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICE, LLC
185. RESTORATION TECHNOLOGIES
186. ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION
187. ROCKY MOUNTAIN TREE-RING RESEARCH
188. ROCKY MOUNTAIN YOUTH CORPS
189. RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY
190. RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA
191. SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
192. SALMON VALLEY STEWARDSHIP
193. SAN JUAN FOREST HEALTH PARTNERSHIP
194. SAN JUAN WOODY-INVASIVES INITIATIVE
195. SCOTT VALLEY COALITION OF FIRE SAFE COUNCILS
196. SIERRA CLUB
197. SIERRA FOREST LEGACY
198. SIUSLAW INSTITUTE
199. SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

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200. SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
201. SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
202. SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
203. SOUTH DAKOTA ATV/UTV ASSOCIATION
204. SOUTH DAKOTA CAMPGROUND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
205. SOUTH DAKOTA FAMILY FORESTS
206. SOUTHEAST YOUTH CORPS
207. SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
208. SOUTHERN OREGON CLIMATE ACTION NOW
209. SOUTHERN OREGON FOREST RESTORATION COLLABORATIVE
210. SOUTHERN OREGON TIMBER INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION
211. SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS ALLIANCE
212. SOUTHWEST CONSERVATION CORPS
213. SOUTHWEST FORESTS SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP
214. SPATIAL INTEREST, LLC
215. SPEARFISH (SD) LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
216. SUSTAINABLE NORTHWEST
217. SWAN ECOSYSTEM CENTER
218. TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
219. TAOS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
220. TELLER COUNTY HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
221. TEXAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
222. THE CONSERVATION FUND
223. THE CORPS NETWORK
224. THE GEORGIA CONSERVANCY
225. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS
226. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
227. THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
228. THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
229. THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
230. THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
231. TIERRA Y MONTES SWCD
232. TOWN OF LAONA, FOREST COUNTY, WI
233. TOWN OF VAIL, CO
234. TREAD LIGHTLY!
235. TREE MUSKETEERS
236. TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTER
237. TROUT UNLIMITED
238. TWIN WILLOWS RANCH
239. UPSTATE FOREVER
240. UTE MOUNTAINEER
241. VAIL RESORTS
242. VERMONT WOODLANDS ASSOCIATION
243. VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
244. VIRGINIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
245. VIRGINIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
246. WALLOWA RESOURCES
247. WASHINGTON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION
248. WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION COALITION
249. WATERSHED RESEARCH & TRAINING CENTER
250. WEST RANGE RECLAMATION, LLC
251. WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
252. WILD SOUTH
253. WILDEARTH GUARDIANS
254. WILDLIFE FOREVER
255. WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE
256. WISCONSIN OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PARK, INC
257. WISCONSIN WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC
258. WYOMING MINING ASSOCIATION
259. WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION
260. YORK LAND TRUST
261. ZUNI MOUNTAIN FOREST COLLABORATIVE

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