



June 12th, 2025

Senator John Hickenlooper

SH-316 Senate Office Building 120 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Curtis

SH-502 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Alex Padilla

311 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tim Sheehy

Russell Senate Office Building Suite 124
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act

Dear Senators Hickenlooper, Curtis, Padilla, and Sheehy-

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) is a membership organization consisting of more than 350 members, serving as the principal voice of Colorado's water community. We are writing to offer our support for S.1462 the Fix Our Forests Act, particularly provisions to reduce wildfire risk, protect municipal water supplies, and support overall watershed health. Thank you for your leadership in addressing critical forest health needs and wildfire challenges by introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

It is paramount that we work to improve the health of our nation's forested lands and protect communities and watersheds, particularly in the West, where wildfires have become increasingly devastating and destructive. This legislation outlines a comprehensive approach to improving forest and watershed health by helping to foster a collaborative partnership between federal agencies and local communities, authorizing common sense environmental streamlining authorities, and expanding important research initiatives.

Communities nationwide continue to face widespread destruction caused by intense wildfires. While wildfire is an important part of a healthy forest ecosystem, the catastrophic fires that are



becoming more common burn with a severity and intensity that exceeds historic norms. These types of devastating fires threaten public health and safety, water quality, negatively affect community resilience and infrastructure, and impact critical water supplies. Wildfires threaten many of our member's watersheds, and a proactive, comprehensive, and effective federal response to mitigate the threat of wildfire is necessary. The resources included in this bill are crucial to help control and reduce the severity of wildfires and protect Colorado's watersheds. CWC supports a collaborative process of planning, prioritizing, and implementing hazardous fuel reduction and forest health improvement projects while protecting, restoring, and enhancing forest ecosystems to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, improve biological diversity, water quality, and enhance productivity.

CWC appreciates the inclusion of Fire Regime IV in 106(b)(1)(B)(ii) (line 10, pg. 48) for Insect and Disease projects. We would appreciate additional dialogue about addressing Colorado's unique challenges with Fire Regime V. Many Fire Regime V's are in high elevation forest types. High elevation wildfires—especially in disease and insect infested forests – are becoming more common and severe and can have a significant impact on our communities and water systems. Finding a mechanism to allow entities to conduct important mitigation work in these areas is important to members of the Colorado Water Congress.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act. This legislation will help address our nation's urgent wildfire management needs and will provide lasting positive impacts on our communities, environment, and economy. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Chane Polo

Chane Polo, CWC Executive Director

Andrew J. Colosimo

Andy Colosimo, Chair of CWC Federal Affairs Committee