



COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

October 15, 2025

Sent via electronic mail

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable John Curtis
United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Tim Sheehy
United States Senator
Washington, D.C.

RE: Letter of Support: S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act

Dear Senators Hickenlooper, Padilla, Curtis, and Sheehy:

On behalf of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, I write to express our support for S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act, and to thank you for your bipartisan leadership in advancing this important legislation to improve forest and watershed health across the West.

Established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1937, the Colorado River District represents 15 counties on Colorado's western slope, encompassing nearly one-third of the Centennial State. Our mission is to protect, conserve, and develop the water resources of the Colorado River Basin for the benefit of our local communities and to safeguard Colorado water to which it is entitled under the law.

Healthy, resilient forests are essential to the reliability of the Colorado River system, which supplies water to 40 million people across the American Southwest. In fact, nearly 65% of the Colorado River's natural flows above Lee Ferry originate within our District's boundaries, mostly on forested federal lands. Unfortunately, increasing wildfire frequency and post-fire flooding in these high-elevation watersheds threaten the quality, quantity, and timing of water deliveries throughout the Basin.

The Fix Our Forests Act provides the tools needed to address these challenges by improving interagency coordination, modernizing wildfire intelligence, expanding water-source protection programs, and streamlining project implementation in high-risk firesheds—all while maintaining necessary environmental safeguards. We particularly appreciate provisions that recognize the connection between forest health and watershed resilience, priorities that directly affect water users on Colorado's western slope and throughout the Colorado River Basin.

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Thank you for your commitment to protecting Western watersheds and the communities that depend on them. The Colorado River District stands ready to partner with you and your colleagues as this important legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Mueller".

Andy Mueller

General Manager

Colorado River Water Conservation District