



October 17, 2025

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
120 Constitution Ave NE
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite SH-316
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Fix Our Forests Act, S.1462, *Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Support*

Dear Senator Hickenlooper:

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) is a governmental entity and quasi-municipal corporation that collects water from primarily federal lands and delivers that water for agricultural, municipal, domestic, and industrial uses to lands and people within the district, which encompasses approximately 1.6 million acres and over one million residents. As part of its operations, Northern Water routinely constructs, operates, repairs, and maintains water-related facilities. In addition to this infrastructure work, Northern Water implements a wide range of watershed health projects that restore degraded stream reaches, restore riparian and wetland plant communities, improve forest health, and increase fire resiliency. Northern Water is writing to express its support for the *Fix Our Forests Act* (FOFA, H.R. 471 / S. 1462).

The increasing magnitude of wildfires in Northern Water's watersheds has been substantial. In 2020, the catastrophic East Troublesome and Cameron Peak Fires burned over 400,000 acres of source watersheds, resulting in loss of life, loss of property, damage to infrastructure, significant ecosystem degradation, poor water quality, sedimentation in reservoirs, and other negative impacts.

The improvement of pre-fire interagency collaboration and the significant environmental permitting efficiencies set forth in the FOFA would minimize the impacts of future fires and their subsequent impacts to critical source watersheds. As U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service lands compose the large majority of Northern Water's approximately 2-million-acre source watersheds, passage of the FOFA is needed to facilitate the timely implementation of the large-scale forest health treatments required to significantly improve watershed health and fire resiliency.

In addition to the points mentioned above, Northern Water strongly supports the FOFA expansion of the Good Neighbor Authority to facilitate the state and local partnerships necessary to achieve large scale forest health treatments on federal lands.

Passage of the FOFA is critical for Northern Water to achieve watershed resiliency, protect critical water supplies, and effectively steward the environment. Northern Water greatly appreciates this bi-partisan legislation and hopes to see quick passage of the bill.

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Thank you for your orchestration of this crucial bill. Please contact me at 970-622-2320 or bwind@northernwater.org if you have questions or would like further information regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Bradley D. Wind
General Manager