



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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July 3, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Support for the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA)

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of the *Fix Our Forests Act* (FOFA) to combat catastrophic wildfires, restore forest ecosystems, and make federal forest management more efficient and responsive.

As you may know, the American West has long been prone to wildfires, but the growing accumulation of dry fuels has intensified fires and lengthened fire seasons. Wildfires today are more catastrophic — growing larger, spreading faster, and burning more land than ever before. Nationwide, total acres burned rose dramatically from 2.7 million in 2023 to nearly 9 million in 2024, a 231 percent increase.

This escalating trend is evident in California, which averages more than 7,500 wildfires a year. Excluding the recent Los Angeles fires, 6 of the top 10 most destructive fires, 3 of the top 5 deadliest fires, and all the state's 9 largest fires have burned since 2017. The current trajectory is unsustainable, and addressing the scale of the crisis is essential to ensure the safety of our communities.

In addition to the immediate threats to lives and property, wildfires release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that accelerate climate change. California's 2020 fire season, the worst on record, emitted enough greenhouse gases to erase nearly two decades of progress on emissions reductions in California. Addressing this wildfire emergency is critical to ensuring that our climate progress is not undermined by the devastating impacts of these fires.

Given this urgency, the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) proposes establishing a Wildfire Intelligence Center to streamline the federal response and foster a whole-of-government approach to combating wildfires. The Act would create a single interagency program to help communities in the wildland-urban interface build and retrofit structures with wildfire-resistant measures, while simplifying and consolidating grant applications. Additionally, FOFA would strengthen reforestation efforts and expand seedling supply and nursery capacity through new programs, such as white oak restoration. It would

also clarify policies to reduce wildfire-related litigation and expedite forest health treatments.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this critical legislation and look forward to working with you to protect our communities and the environment from increasingly destructive wildfires. Thank you for supporting this bipartisan effort to improve the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Ogren". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Nancy Ogren

Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick
Senator Megan Dahle
Rural County Representatives of California