



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 6, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Curtis
B11 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Sheehy
G55 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: SUPPORT – The Fix Our Forests Act (S. 1462; H.R. 471)

Dear Senators Padilla, Curtis, Hickenlooper, and Sheehy:

On behalf of the Lake County Board of Supervisors, thank you for your leadership in introducing the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA; S. 1462) and for working across the aisle to craft a thoughtful, bipartisan solution to one of the most pressing issues facing forested communities like ours.

Lake County knows the consequences of unmanaged forests and delayed mitigation efforts all too well. Over the past decade, we have been ground zero for some of California's most destructive wildfires. The 2015 Valley Fire destroyed nearly 2,000 structures and displaced thousands. The Rocky Fire and Jerusalem Fire ignited in quick succession that same year. Just three years later, the Mendocino Complex Fire – then the largest wildfire in California history – ravaged over 450,000 acres across multiple counties. These fires caused long-term economic damage, decimated critical infrastructure, and left lasting scars on our landscape and communities. Today, red flag warnings, utility shutoffs, and evacuations are no longer rare emergencies – they're part of life in Lake County.

Despite these ongoing threats, the federal process for treating overgrown forests and reducing hazardous fuels remains slow and cumbersome. The Fix Our Forests Act recognizes this and provides targeted reforms that would enable federal, state, and local partners to act more swiftly and strategically. By streamlining environmental reviews, expanding categorical exclusions for wildfire mitigation projects, and improving interagency coordination, FOFA (*via S. 1462 and H.R. 471, of which, you will be aware, Lake County's esteemed Congressman, Mike Thompson is a Cosponsor*) helps ensure that critical vegetation management efforts are not lost in red tape.

FOFA is a pragmatic, science-based response to a crisis that has been growing in scale and severity for years. It reflects the real-world challenges of forested counties and brings forward solutions that can be implemented without delay. Thank you again for your commitment to addressing the pressing challenges facing our nation's forests. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Hasan Sarsour, Lake County Federal Representative, at hs@paragonlobbying.com.

Respectfully,

Chair
Lake County Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF LAKE

Cc: Honorable Congressman Mike Thompson; Honorable Senator Adam Schiff