



## TEAM: WILDFIRE & FOREST HEALTH

### Issue Experts:

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## SUBJECT: ADVANCING WILDFIRE RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, INNOVATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES

### REQUESTED ACTION:

The Capital Region is uniquely vulnerable to wildfire due to its proximity to fire-prone federal forestlands, critical water and energy infrastructure, and expanding wildland-urban interface communities across Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, and Nevada counties. Aligned with the 2026 Cap-to-Cap Regional Priorities, the Wildfire & Forest Health Team urges Congress and the Administration to advance the following legislative and policy actions to strengthen wildfire response, recovery and resilience:

- **Advance the Fix Our Forests Act (H.R. 471/S. 1462)** to expand categorical exclusions, increase pace and scale of fuels reduction, accelerate landscape-scale forest management projects on federal and adjacent lands, and strengthen coordination between federal land managers and local agencies to enhance forest resiliency and fuel reduction projects, including permitting and use of master stewardship agreements.
- **Support comprehensive permitting reform legislation** that aligns NEPA with state and local review processes, expands programmatic environmental analyses, and reduces duplicative reviews for wildfire resilience, forest health, energy, water, and infrastructure projects.
- **Fully fund and reauthorize FEMA wildfire and fire service programs**, including Assistance to Firefighters Grants, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, to strengthen local response capacity, mitigation planning, and community resilience.



- **Advance Farm Bill forestry and wildfire provisions** that expand hazardous fuels reduction, prescribed fire capacity, watershed restoration, and post-fire recovery through the U.S. Forest Service.
- **Protect and expand Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act implementation** to support water infrastructure modernization, and community-scale wildfire mitigation projects including defensible space initiatives, fire-resistant construction, and smoke impact mitigation.
- **Support Department of Energy legislation and appropriations** that advance biomass and bioenergy innovation and commercialization by supporting federal R&D and pilot projects that reduce hazardous fuels while creating high wage jobs and strengthening the region's innovation ecosystem.
- **Advance workforce legislation and appropriations** through the Department of Labor, Economic Development Administration, and Department of Education to expand apprenticeships, career-connected learning, and training pipelines in wildfire response, forestry, infrastructure construction, and alternative energy.
- **Strengthen interagency coordination and data integration authorities** through legislation supporting the National Interagency Fire Center, National Interagency Coordination Center, and federal wildfire data modernization.

## HOW THIS SUPPORTS BUSINESSES:

Wildfire preparedness and resilience are foundational to the Capital Region's economic competitiveness. These actions protect commercial corridors, industrial sites, agricultural operations, tourism assets, and supply chains by reducing the frequency, scale, and disruption of wildfire events. Strategic investments in response capacity and infrastructure minimize business interruption, property loss, and insurance exposure while improving predictability for employers and investors.

Aligning wildfire policy with the region's innovation and government efficiency priorities creates new economic opportunity. Expanded biomass and wood utilization markets support advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, and working lands industries while leveraging federal R&D partnerships to accelerate commercialization. Streamlined permitting and coordinated federal-state processes reduce project delays, lower costs, and attract private capital into forest health, infrastructure, and resilience projects.

## HOW THIS SUPPORTS RESIDENTS OF OUR REGION:



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# CAP TO CAP

Strengthening wildfire response and preparedness directly improves public safety, health, and quality of life for residents in the Capital Region. Investments in defensible space, fire resistant infrastructure, resilient water systems, and emergency communications reduce displacement, property loss, and prolonged smoke exposure.

Modernized forest management lowers wildfire severity, protects watersheds, and improves long term air and water quality. Enhanced interagency coordination and data driven decision making ensure timely evacuation, clearer communication, and more effective recovery. Workforce training and apprenticeship pathways tied to wildfire mitigation, forestry, and alternative energy provide residents with access to stable, high-quality jobs that sustain regional resilience and enhance quality of life.