

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Budget
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Price
Chairman
House Committee on Budget
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Budget
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2015

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Price and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

The undersigned organizations represent millions of hunters and anglers across the United States who are united in seeking your support of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFFA), S. 235 and H.R. 167. Many of our members and supporters hunt and fish on federal public lands, particularly on national forests and BLM land. Yet, each year, funding for crucial programs that impact recreation or habitat management on public lands is transferred to pay for unavoidable wildfire suppression activity. Even when those programs are repaid, the delay is often many months. WDFFA fixes these chronic delay problems by funding a portion of the USFS and DOI wildfire suppression costs through a budget cap adjustment similar to the budget cap adjustment currently in use by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Longer, more severe, wildfire seasons; increased development in the wildland-urban interface; and millions of acres of forests with fuel loads exceeding the historic range of forest variability are among the many factors contributing to the repeated need to transfer funds from non-fire programs to pay for wildfire suppression. The last decade has seen several large, very expensive wildfires, which has increased the USFS wildfire management costs from 13 percent of the agency's FY 1991 budget to nearly 50 percent over the last several fiscal years. Consequently, habitat management activities and outdoor recreation programs have been negatively impacted across national forests and DOI lands.

As the nation experiences longer wildfire seasons, the practice of transferring funds from non-fire programs to pay for emergency wildfire response will continue, which is why we respectfully request your support of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, S. 235 and H.R. 167.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Boone and Crockett Club
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Campfire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Master of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion: The Hunters Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope & Young Club
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Tread Lightly!
Whitetails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute