

Dear Members of Congress and President Trump:

While the wildfires in Los Angeles were raging, killing at least 25 people and [destroying more than 17,000 structures](#), leaders of the Congressional Western Caucus, Representatives LaMalfa (R-CA), Westerman (R-AR), and McClain (R-MI), sought to take [cynical advantage](#) of this profound tragedy to promote the “Fix Our Forests Act” (H.R. 471), which would increase logging across federal forest lands as a supposed community protection measure.

We the undersigned organizations strongly urge you to oppose the “Fix Our Forests Act”, which the Republican leadership of the House plans to take up for a floor vote on Thursday, January 23, 2025. If passed, this bill will increase threats to at-risk communities from wildfires while amplifying the climate crisis. The deceptively named “Fix Our Forests Act” would override bedrock environmental laws and curtail public participation to mandate landscape-scale logging on federal lands. The Act has no limits on the size, age, or percentage of trees to be removed, so logging of large trees and clearcutting would likely occur on a vast scale across federal forests, even though [most vulnerable human populations are not in forests](#). Even in forested areas, fires are often [spilling over from intensively managed private lands](#), where studies show that logging, combined with severe fire weather, can [increase fire severity](#).

Passage of this bill would threaten lives and communities from wildfires in multiple ways.

First, the Act diverts attention and resources away from the communities that are most at risk from wildfires—those that are in areas dominated by grasslands and shrublands, like the communities devastated by wildfires in Los Angeles. In the minority of at-risk communities that are in forested areas, the Act ignores how large fires have rapidly [swept through intensively managed forests before burning down towns](#), as we saw tragically with the towns of Paradise, Grizzly Flats, and Greenville in northern California in recent years, and in the [weather-driven Labor Day 2020 fires](#) in southern Oregon. The Act’s proponents ignore the many studies that find removing trees from forests reduces wind resistance, allowing winds to spread wildfires much faster, leaving people less time to safely evacuate and giving first responders less time to save lives and homes. Research shows the faster wildfires move, [the more they impact communities](#).

Second, instead of acknowledging the overriding role of extreme weather and climate change in driving fast-moving fires that threaten communities, the Act ignores and denies these central factors, focusing on vegetation removal across remote wildlands instead of scientifically well-established, community-based methods to keep lives and homes safe from wildfires. Effective measures include retrofitting existing structures to make them more resistant to embers, creating and maintaining smart defensible space within 100 feet of structures, establishing better land use planning to prevent homes from being built in fire-prone areas in the first place, and evacuation planning and preparedness. The bipartisan Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act (Rep. Huffman, D-CA) and the SAFE HOME Act (Rep. Kiley, R-CA) would focus more resources into these effective practices. Notably, current science finds that [vegetation management or removal more than 100 feet from homes provides no additional benefits](#) to home protection from wildfires. The relevant area is the home itself and its immediate surroundings, not remote, publicly owned forests. Moreover, decades of research by government scientists has demonstrated that agencies can and often do manage forests with fire alone, without any prior tree removal—even in dense forests—and at far lower per-acre cost compared to mechanical thinning or other logging operations. [Prescribed fire or managed wildfire alone are more effective](#) forest

management activities that also provide better results for biodiversity, yet the Act would focus far more attention on logging activities.

Third, focusing on intensive vegetation removal, especially through logging, in remote federal forests contributes to the global cycle of carbon emissions and extreme fire weather by [increasing carbon emissions more than threefold per acre relative to fire alone](#). Exacerbating [climate change makes extreme weather fluctuations worse](#), further threatening communities not just from wildfires but also from hurricanes and severe flooding.

Ultimately, the Fix Our Forests Act would compel federal land management agencies to double down on the [ineffective approaches to wildfire mitigation](#) employed at great cost over the past two decades. More importantly, this legislation would fail to prevent tragedies like those experienced in Los Angeles this month. Please oppose it.

Sincerely,

1. 350 Eugene
2. 350PDX
3. 350 Salem Oregon
4. 350 Seattle
5. 350 Wisconsin
6. Advocates for the Environment
7. Alabama Province CHDO
8. Alliance for the Wild Rockies
9. Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
10. Anthropocene Alliance
11. Athens County's Future Action Network, ACFAN
12. Bark
13. Battle Creek Alliance
14. Bill Anderson Fund
15. Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
16. Biofuelwatch
17. Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
18. Bunny's Flowers
19. California Chaparral Institute
20. Center for Biological Diversity
21. Center for a Sustainable Coast
22. Cherokee Concerned Citizens
23. Community Rights Lane County
24. Citizens Awareness Network
25. Citizens Committee for Flood Relief
26. Clean Energy Action
27. Climate Communications Coalition
28. Citizens for a Clean Harbor
29. Christians Caring for Creation
30. Coal River Mountain Watch

31. Coalition for Wetlands and Forests
32. Conservation Congress
33. Creative Perspectives Foundation
34. Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue
35. Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC
36. Doctors and Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution
37. Dogwood Alliance
38. Dream Tank
39. Earth Ethics, Inc.
40. Earth Law Center
41. Earth Neighborhood Productions
42. Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO)
43. Elwha Legacy Forests Coalition
44. Empower Our Future
45. Endangered Habitats League
46. Endangered Species Coalition
47. Environmental Equity Information Institute (E2I2)
48. Environmental Protection Information Center
49. Feather River Action!
50. Forests Forever
51. Forest Keeper
52. Friends of the Bitterroot
53. Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
54. Friends of the Clearwater
55. Friends of the Corvallis Watershed
56. Friends of White's Woods, Inc.
57. Gallatin Wildlife Association
58. Global Justice Ecology Project
59. Green Cove Defense Committee
60. Green Snohomish
61. GreenLatinos
62. Greenpeace USA
63. Habitat Recovery Project
64. Heart of the Gila
65. Heartwood
66. Indiana Forest Alliance
67. Inland Empire Task Force
68. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program
69. Interfaith Earthkeepers Eugene/Springfield
70. Los Padres ForestWatch
71. John Muir Project
72. Junta Comunitaria Pastillo Tibes Corp
73. Kettle Range Conservation Group
74. Klamath Forest Alliance
75. KS Connectivity
76. Legal Rights for the Salish Sea

77. Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency, Inc.
78. Mason County Climate Justice
79. Massachusetts Forest Watch
80. Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
81. Mountain Valley Climate Action
82. Move Past Plastic (MPP)
83. MS COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR PROSPERITY (MCUP)
84. Natural Resources Law
85. New image Life Skulls Academy Inc
86. New Jersey Forest Watch
87. New Mexico Climate Justice
88. New Mexico Wild
89. Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
90. Northwest Watershed Institute
91. Nuclear Information and Resource Service
92. Old-Growth Forest Network
93. Olympic Climate Action
94. Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice
95. Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies
96. Partnership for Policy Integrity
97. Partnership for Southern Equity
98. Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
99. Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
100. Pintler Audubon Society
101. Pivot Point
102. Polly Dyer Seattle Broads Great Old Broads for Wilderness
103. Prairie Protection
104. Predator Defense
105. Protect Our Woods
106. Public Lands Media
107. Rachel Carson Council
108. Rio Grande Indivisible, New Mexico
109. Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability
110. Rocky Mountain Wild
111. Rogue Valley Broads & Bros
112. Rosewood Strong Community
113. Santa Fe Forest Coalition
114. Save Our Sky Blue Waters
115. Save the Wakarusa River Valley
116. SavRYouth SavRFuture
117. Saving Island Green Wildlife & Beyond
118. Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!)
119. South Bronx Unite
120. South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
121. Southeast Queens Residents Environmental Justice Coalition
122. Standing Trees

123. StopVTBiomass
124. Sustainable Ocean Alliance
125. Swan View Coalition
126. Tahoe Forests Matter
127. Taking Back Our Youth
128. Tennessee Heartwood
129. The Clinch Coalition
130. The Enviro Show
131. The Forest Advocate
132. Thurston climate action team
133. Tualatin Riverkeepers
134. Unite the Parks
135. Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
136. Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
137. Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
138. Vocal Seniority
139. Voices of Water Program; Biodiversity for a livable climate
140. Water League
141. We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review
142. Wellspring Spa
143. Wild Horse and Burro Fund
144. Wild Cumberland
145. Wild Heritage
146. Wild Nature Institute
147. Wild Orca
148. Wild Watershed
149. WildEarth Guardians
150. Wildwood Consulting LLC
151. Wilderness Watch
152. Williams Community Forest Project
153. Wyoming Wildlife Advocates
154. Yellowstone to Uintas Connection