

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
US House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture  
US House of Representatives  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Goodlatte,

The wildlife conservation organizations listed below represent the interests of millions of sportsmen and women from across America who commonly recreate on our nation's federal public lands. We appreciate your efforts to protect these lands and adjacent ownerships from the increasing threat posed by severe wildfires. Both HR 5541 (Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act) and HR 5648 (Emergency Wildland Fire Response Act of 2008) offer potential opportunities to help meet this threat.

The establishment of an emergency funding mechanism would better enable federal land management agencies to fund the increasing costs of wildfire suppression without diminishing their ability to fund wildlife habitat conservation and other important programs. Likewise, providing incentives for rural communities to proactively reduce the risk from wildfires would help to reduce the costs of wildfire suppression.

We urge the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture to work together to craft comprehensive legislation that will help safeguard our rural communities and natural landscapes. We offer you our assistance in working to attain this ultimate objective.

Thank you for your time.

Archery Trade Association  
Bear Trust International  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
North American Grouse Partners  
Quail Unlimited  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Safari Club International  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Management Institute

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Boone & Crockett Club  
Campfire Club of America  
Conservation Force  
Izaak Walton League of America  
National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Pope & Young Club  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
The Wildlife Society  
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance  
Wildlife Forever