



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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July 8, 2008

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chairman  
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Chairman  
The Honorable Don Young, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Bingaman, Domenici and Representatives Rahall, Young and Grijalva:

We are writing to express our support for the Forest Landscape Restoration Act of 2007 (FLRA). Science-based, collaboratively-supported forest restoration has long been a priority for Western Governors and constituents across the region. We believe forest management should occur within a landscape restoration context, be guided by best available science, supported with meaningful collaboration, and bolstered by the development of ecologically sustainable, appropriately-scaled industries.

We agree with the language in the legislation that the nation needs to:

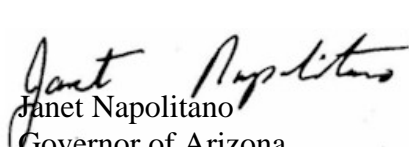
- 1) increase the human and financial resources dedicated to restoring forests and protecting communities;
- 2) coordinate and implement action at the landscape scale;
- 3) increase the efficiency of restoration, fire management, and community protection activities;
- 4) encourage ecologically sustainable, forest-based economic activity; and
- 5) build public support for accomplishing restoration, community protection, and fire management across the state.

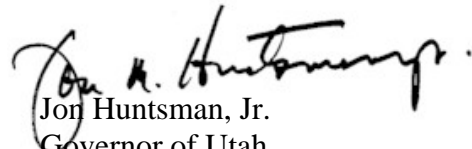
We look forward to passage of this bill in the Senate and the House in the very near future. Increased funding capacity directed towards science-based, collaboratively-supported forest restoration as laid out in the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan and as stipulated in the bill's language, will be critically important in our ongoing and future forest and rangeland health restoration efforts across the West.

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici  
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The Honorable Don Young  
The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Thank you in advance for your support of the Forest Landscape Restoration Act of 2007. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Napolitano  
Governor of Arizona  
Co-lead Governor, Forest Health

  
Jon Huntsman, Jr.  
Governor of Utah  
Co-lead Governor, Forest Health

cc: WGA Forest Health Advisory Committee