



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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March 9, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S 128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S 128, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 LHOB, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Rogers and Ranking Members Rogers and Dicks:

On behalf of western governors we write to request your assistance and support for allocating funding in the current fiscal cycle to address the risks and threats posed by the millions of acres of trees killed by various insects and diseases on our National Forests—in some cases, these have reached epidemic, unprecedented proportions.

We appreciate earlier efforts by the Appropriation Committees to fund the restoration work that needs to be done in these insect and disease impacted forests. We request that every effort be made immediately to apply any unused carryover fire suppression funding to expand and accelerate that restoration work. We believe the condition of our forests warrant preventive action given the scale of this emergency situation.

While it's critical to address the federal deficit, and we don't want to get in the way of serious bipartisan efforts to do that, it's frankly penny-wise and dollar foolish to cut back on or fail to robustly fund restoration efforts for insect and disease mitigation in the West. We are risking a far higher cost in dollars, property and lives if we fail to address the threats and risks of an unfortunate catastrophic fire season.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for all of your efforts to help address this urgent problem.

Sincerely,

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho
Chairman

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Vice Chair

Chairmen Inouye and Rogers
and Ranking Members Rogers and Dicks
March 9, 2011
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent and the last name "Hickenlooper" following in a similar style.

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Forest Health Co-lead Governor