



August 25, 2008

ALASKA

AMERICAN SAMOA The Honorable John Barrasso
U.S. Senator

ARIZONA 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO Dear Senator Barrasso:

COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA

GUAM

HAWAII

IDAHO

KANSAS

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

NEVADA

NEW MEXICO

NORTH DAKOTA

OREGON

REPUBLIC OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

SOUTH DAKOTA

UTAH

WASHINGTON

WYOMING

On behalf of the members of the Council of Western State Foresters (Council), I would like to thank you for your interest in providing opportunities to work across boundaries on forest management projects and activities in the western United States. Your introduction of the *Good Neighbor Forestry Act* (S. 3302) is critical to continue the positive work already occurring through the use of this piloted authority in both Colorado and Utah.

The Council of Western State Foresters is comprised of the seventeen State Foresters and six Territorial Foresters in the West. The mission of the Council is to promote science-based forest management that serves the values of society and ensures the health and sustainability of western forests. The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows for the state agencies to act as an agent for the federal agencies to complete similar or complimentary treatments across state, federal and private boundaries. This work under this authority helps to leverage limited resources for the betterment of healthy forests as well as decrease fire danger. These activities include: forest, rangeland and watershed restoration and protection services activities including insect treatment, hazardous fuels activities, watershed restoration including fish and wildlife habitats and build upon other opportunities where local interest and support exists.

The GNA authority is especially important in the western United States due to our significant amount of public lands and forest-dependent communities. Having the ability to work across boundaries will become even more important as forestland is fragmented, land development in the Wildland-Urban Interface increases and climate change continues. Fire, insects and diseases do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries, nor should our forest management treatments. Collaboration across land ownerships, government agencies and communities is the key to success on the ground. Authorities such as GNA give us the tools to be successful.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Bill Crapser
Chairman, Council of Western State Foresters
Wyoming State Forester

cc: The Honorable Pete Domenici
 The Honorable Time Johnson
 The Honorable Ken Salazar
 The Honorable Gordon Smith

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