



N A R U C

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

March 13, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Urgent Need for Senate Action on S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer,

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) urges timely Senate consideration and passage of **S.1462, the Fix Our Forests Act**, a bipartisan measure to strengthen wildfire mitigation, improve forest management, and enhance coordination among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies.

As state regulators, NARUC members recognize that utility reliability, affordability, and the safety of the public are increasingly threatened by severe and recurring wildfires. In 2024, NARUC unanimously adopted a resolution calling for enhanced coordination between utilities and federal land management agencies and improved access to rights-of-way to reduce wildfire fuel loads on public lands. While NARUC has not passed a specific resolution endorsing S. 1462, many of the Fix Our Forests Act's provisions directly support those goals.

In particular, the legislation expands the recognition of so-called *hazard trees* and streamlines vegetation management near transmission and distribution infrastructure—measures that can substantially reduce ignition risks and improve system resilience. The bill's emphasis on interagency coordination, through the establishment of a new Wildfire Intelligence Center and cross-boundary "fire shed management" approach, also aligns with NARUC's recommendations in its comprehensive and recently released *Wildfire Handbook for State Utility Regulators*.¹

Effective wildfire mitigation also depends on timely vegetation management and efficient coordination across federal land management agencies so that utilities can address hazards before they threaten infrastructure, communities, and electric reliability. Policies that streamline federal review and remove unnecessary barriers to vegetation management are critical to protecting customers and strengthening the resilience of the nation's electric grid.

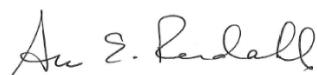
¹ Chapters available free online in PDF and e-book formats at: <https://www.naruc.org/core-sectors/critical-infrastructure-and-cybersecurity/wildfire-workbook/>,

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the companion measure, H.R. 471, on a strong bipartisan basis in early 2025, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry advanced the Senate companion measure, S.1462, out-of-committee also with strong bipartisan support last October.

S.1462 merits full Senate consideration at the earliest opportunity, particularly given the escalating toll wildfires are taking on communities, utilities, and customers across the country.

We thank you for your leadership and collaboration on addressing these urgent challenges and stand ready to assist as the Senate advances S.1462 to final passage.

Respectfully,



Ann Rendahl
NARUC President



Mike La Rosa
Chair, NARUC Committee on Energy and the Environment

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Members, House Committee on Natural Resources