



NARUC

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

August 20, 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, Fix Our Forests Act

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) continues to urge timely Senate consideration and passage of **S.1462, 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 regarding 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 the goals of NARUC's 2024 resolution.

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

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



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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.

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 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. According to the National Interagency Fire Center located in Boise, Idaho, "[s]o far in 2026, firefighters have responded to 49,242 wildfires that have burned more than 7.2 million acres across the United States, 129% of the 10-year average for fires and 168% for acres burned."²

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

Sincerely,

Hon. Ann Rendahl
NARUC President
Commissioner, Washington Utilities &
Transportation Commission

Tony Clark
Executive Director

c: The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar

² <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn>