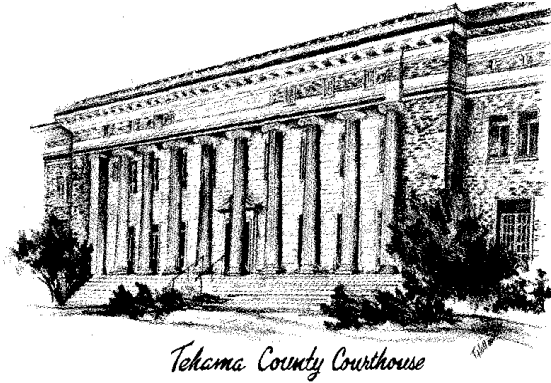


Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 – Rob Burroughs
District 2 – Tom Walker
District 3 – Pati Nolen
District 4 – Matt Hansen
District 5 – Greg Jones



Gabriel Hydrick
Chief Administrator

August 19, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Fix Our Forests Act (FoFA)

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the **Tehama County Board of Supervisors**, we write to express support for the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) as a meaningful first step toward addressing the growing crisis of catastrophic wildfires, restoring forest ecosystems, and make federal forest management more efficient and responsive.

As you may know, the American West has long been prone to wildfires, but prolonged drought and the buildup of dry fuels have increasingly intensified fires and extended fire seasons. Wildfires today are more catastrophic — growing larger, spreading faster, and burning more land than ever before. Nationwide, total acres burned rose dramatically from 2.7 million in 2023 to nearly 9 million in 2024, a 231 percent increase.

This escalating trend is evident in California, which averages more than 7,500 wildfires a year. Excluding the recent Los Angeles fires, 6 of the top 10 most destructive fires, 3 of the top 5 deadliest fires, and all the state's 9 largest fires have burned since 2017. The current trajectory is unsustainable, and addressing the scale of the crisis is essential to ensure the safety of our communities.

In addition to the immediate threats to lives and property, wildfires release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that accelerate climate change. California's 2020 fire season, the worst on record, emitted enough greenhouse gases to erase nearly two decades of progress on emissions reductions in California. Addressing this wildfire emergency is critical to ensuring that our climate progress is not undermined by the devastating impacts of these fires.

FOFA presents a positive step forward. Provisions such as the creation of the Wildfire Intelligence Center, improved interagency coordination, support for wildfire-resistant communities, and investments in reforestation and seedling supply are all commendable. These measures will undoubtedly help lay the groundwork for more effective federal forest management.

However, while FOFA is a good start, much more is needed. The scale of the wildfire crisis demands sustained, large-scale federal action and significantly increased funding to properly manage our federal forests. Long-term investments in forest restoration, expanded workforce capacity, and greater support for local and state partners are essential to meet the magnitude of this challenge.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this critical legislation and look forward to working with you to protect our communities and the environment from increasingly destructive wildfires. Thank you for supporting this bipartisan effort to improve the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Matt Hansen
Tehama County Supervisors, Chair