

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE  
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 9, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

Thank you for convening several western governors for a meeting last month to discuss how the federal government can better partner with states to improve wildfire response and create more resilient forests. I was encouraged by the bipartisan emphasis on both an aggressive initial response and active forest management to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

As these conversations continue, I strongly encourage you and your administration to work with Congressional leadership in support of the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act, led by Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Introduced by 70 members of Congress in July with the backing of 90 organizations, this bill will support proactive, science-based forest management at a pace and scale that match the urgency of the forest health crisis we face. It gives the U.S. Forest Service additional tools to manage millions of acres of federal forest and reduce wildfire risk. It also addresses a concern raised in our conversation by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, which I was encouraged to hear you share, by helping to end frivolous lawsuits that delay essential forest management projects from moving forward.

The benefits are clear: forest management means healthier forests, improved wildlife habitat, enhanced recreational opportunities, more good-paying jobs, and, most importantly, less severe wildfires. With so much at stake, I ask you and your administration to support the Resilient Federal Forests Act for the benefit of Montana and the West. The health of our forests cannot wait.

Sincerely,

  
Greg Gianforte  
Governor