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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA)

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to express our strong support for your recently introduced legislation, the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA), aimed at combating catastrophic wildfires, restoring forest ecosystems, and making federal forest management more efficient and responsive.

California and much of the American West have long been vulnerable to wildfires, but the combination of prolonged drought, increased temperatures, and decades of fuel buildup has pushed this crisis to unprecedented levels. Wildfires are growing larger, spreading faster, and destroying more land than ever before, as evidenced by the unprecedented fires of the last 20 years, including the Dixie Fire which destroyed much of the Lassen and Modoc forests and countless homes and businesses.

The data is clear: California now experiences an average of more than 7,500 wildfires annually. Since 2017, six of the top ten most destructive fires, three of the top five deadliest fires, and all nine of the state's largest fires have occurred. The status quo is unsustainable, and urgent action is required to protect communities like ours.

The Fix Our Forests Act provides a comprehensive approach by streamlining federal processes, expanding active forest management, and enhancing restoration efforts. These changes will not only reduce wildfire risks but also promote healthier forests, safeguard public safety, and protect critical infrastructure and natural resources.

We urge Congress to move this legislation forward quickly. Our rural communities, wildlife habitats, and local economies depend on bold, decisive action to address the wildfire crisis. The FOFA represents a meaningful step toward creating safer, more resilient forests for future generations.

Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN
Lassen County Board of Supervisors