

March 3, 2025

Senator John Hickenlooper
Byron Rogers Federal Building
1961 Stout Street, Suite 12-300
Denver, Colorado 80294

We, the undersigned Colorado conservation organizations and advocates, ask you to please refrain from introducing a Senate companion bill to the controversial and scientifically-contested “Fix Our Forests” Act.

The current bill, [H.R. 471](#), would decimate bedrock environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and arbitrarily expand the definition of “hazardous fuels management” to allow nearly all forms of forest clearing in the name of “wildfire,” including clearcutting and removal of mature and old-growth trees.

Every environmental group in the U.S. that supports forests, biodiversity, and climate—as well as science-based community protection from wildfire—stands in opposition to this bill, including the Sierra Club and Earthjustice.

In fact, “Fix Our Forests” is so extreme that some of Congress’ strongest proponents of “fuel reduction”—Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO), both of who have introduced their [own bills](#) directing tens of billions of dollars towards aggressive forest management in the name of wildfire—oppose H.R. 471.

[Senator Wyden](#) went so far as to [say](#) that “Fix Our Forests” “undermines bedrock environmental laws, and would allow poorly designed, large commercial projects that threaten community drinking water, wildlife and recreation opportunities to proceed with inadequate environmental review.” [Rep. Neguse](#) voted against the bill on January 25, 2025.

Instead of introducing a companion bill to “Fix Our Forests,” we ask you to please oppose such efforts and draft legislation that would actually go a long way towards protecting communities from disasters like the Marshall Fire. One such bill is Rep. Jared Huffman's (D-CA) “Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act,” [H.R. 582](#), which focuses on the only actions proven by the best available [peer-reviewed science](#) to save structures and lives, i.e., home hardening and defensible space pruning up to 100 feet around homes.

Sincerely,

350 Colorado

Animal Wellness Action

Black Canyon Audubon Society

Cats Aren't Trophies

Center for a Human Economy

Clean Energy Action

Colorado Coalition for a Livable Climate

Colorado Wildlife Alliance

Deep Green Resistance Colorado

Dream Tank

Eco-Integrity Alliance

Empower Our Future

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Green Root Podcast

Harmonious Return

High Country Conservation Advocates

Magnolia Forest Group

Prairie Protection Colorado

Quiet Use Coalition

Rocky Smith, Forest Management Analyst

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

Sheep Mountain Alliance

South San Juan Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Wild Earth Guardians