



August 21, 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 City of Santa Rosa, I write in support of the *Fix our Forests Act* (FOFA) to combat catastrophic wildfires, restore forest ecosystems, and make federal forest management more efficient and responsive.

Santa Rosa has been directly impacted and threatened by four major wildfires since 2017. The Tubbs, Nuns, Glass and Kincade Fires destroyed thousands of structures, led to the loss of numerous lives, traumatized our community, and caused long-term major economic impacts. 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. The Tubbs and Glass Fires rank amongst the most destructive wildfires in history.

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.

Given this urgency, we believe the *Fix our Forests Act* (FOFA) proposes a comprehensive approach that establishes the **Wildfire Intelligence Center** which would streamline the federal response and create a whole-of-government approach to combating wildfires. It would **create a single interagency program to help communities in the wildland-urban interface** build and retrofit with wildfire-resistant measures, while simplifying and consolidating grant applications. Additionally, FOFA would **improve reforestation, seedling supply, and nursery capacity** by establishing new programs for white oak restoration and clarifying policies to reduce wildfire-related litigation and expedite forest health treatments.



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,

Mark Stapp

Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

*This is a critical issue for Santa Rosa. Thank you for your work on this.*