



National Fire Protection Association

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The Honorable Sally Jewel, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Secretaries Jewel and Vilsack:

On behalf of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), I want to express our strong support of the development and implementation of the *Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management*, as authorized in the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act). NFPA staff have been actively engaged in its development through the regional strategy committees and several task groups and look forward to the publication and implementation of Phase III of the strategy.

NFPA is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. NFPA develops more than 300 codes and standards to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other hazards. Wildland fire safety and risk reduction have been part of NFPA's outreach and advocacy efforts since 1986. The association administers the Firewise® program in cooperation with state and federal partners, and manages a cooperative agreement through the USDA Forest Service to promote Fire Adapted Communities messaging, web presence, and outreach. As such, we are particularly pleased that the *Cohesive Strategy* includes the concept of creating fire-adapted communities and focuses on the role of citizens and neighborhoods in the wildfire safety arena.

We support the *Cohesive Strategy's* approach of engaging a diverse group of stakeholders and applaud the work of all partners in gaining input from groups across the country and throughout the spectrum of wildland fire safety and forest health concerns. The development of biophysical and socioeconomic data to illustrate relative risk across the nation is a sound science-based approach that will enable the nation to adequately describe and quantify risks, opportunities, and priorities for implementation of the strategy.

The three tenets of the *Cohesive Strategy*, which focus on restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes; creating fire-adapted communities; and suppressing fires effectively, cover the gamut of key concerns, and we believe will have a lasting positive impact on our nation's response to wildland fire.

We look forward to continued engagement in the *Cohesive Strategy* as Phase III rolls out. We thank you both for your agencies' continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Shannon
President and Chief Executive Officer