



# FEDERAL FOREST

RESOURCE COALITION

## **FFRC Board of Directors**

Jim Parma  
President  
Minnesota

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 1007  
Washington, DC 20037

June 12, 2023

Travis Joseph  
Vice President  
Oregon

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Ryan Mattei  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Alabama

Tom Schultz  
Idaho

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

Steve Brink  
California

The undersigned organizations write to express support for HR 188, the *Proven Forest Management Act*, and HR 1450, *Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act*. GNA has a proven track record of projects which allow Federal land managers to work cooperatively with neighboring States. That record should not forestall further improvements to the statute.

Elvy Barton  
Arizona

Buck Fullerton  
Oregon

HR 1450 clarifies the original intent and holistic approach to improve the health and productivity of our National Forests by carrying out restoration services on proximate state, tribal, county, and other land. Wildfires and forest health problems do not respect boundaries and communities want comprehensive treatments.

Chad Morgan  
Minnesota

Cameron Krauss  
Oregon

Paul McKenzie  
Montana

Second, through this bill, Tribes and Counties will have the same authority as States to retain project revenues and use them to reinvest in restoration of our forests. Since GNA was created, at least 38 states have broken ground on more than 490 projects. This is good, but it can be even better by including Tribes and counties. As Congress and the Forest Service want to accelerate work to improve forest health, and workforce remains a bottleneck, this improvement to GNA is sound. GNA is an important, bipartisan tool for the restoration of forests, and S. 697—supported by the Forest Service—will make it even better.

Travis Oldershaw  
Tennessee

Duane Vaagen  
Washington

Eric Nichols  
Alaska

Bill Imbergamo  
Executive Director

HR 188 would strengthen cooperation and coordination between States and the Forest Service, while expanding the availability of a broad forest management authority which has been in use in the Lake Tahoe Basin for years. The Forest Service has proved they will responsibly implement this authority, so it makes logical sense for Congress to expand it to the entire National Forest System.

We appreciate your commitment to advancing responsible forest management solutions for the our National Forest System. We hope the Committee will consolidate the meritorious bills which have been considered into a larger forest management reform package that can win bipartisan support and be passed into law. As always, we appreciate your attention to our issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Imbergamo', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Imbergamo  
Executive Director