



**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

November 14, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Forests and
Forest Health
Committee on Resources
1404 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and its 37 million members, I am writing to endorse the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (HR 4200). NRECA supports your common-sense bipartisan approach to recovering America's federal forestlands devastated by wildfire and other natural disasters.

A large area of America's federal forestlands is located in areas served by electric cooperatives. Consumer-owners of electric cooperatives in these rural areas go to great lengths to restore the health of their private lands following devastation caused by catastrophic natural events like wildfire and hurricanes, as well as wind and ice storms. Unfortunately, the same is not true for federal land managers whose hands are routinely tied by regulatory "red tape." This red tape prevents them from restoring federal forestlands scarred by natural disasters. Not only do federal forestlands suffer from this lack of restoration and reforestation, but it also has the unintended consequence of affecting the recovery of adjacent private lands crucial to the economic viability of many rural communities served by electric cooperatives. HR 4200 reverses this trend by continuing the progress of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, which gives federal land managers the tools they need to prevent wildfire and other natural disasters, by also giving land managers the tools they need to restore federal forestlands in the aftermath of these disasters.

NRECA looks forward to working with you and other members of the Resources and Agriculture Committees to ensure that this meaningful bipartisan legislation is enacted. We appreciate the leadership role you have taken on this issue during your tenure in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn English".

Glenn English