



UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

Douglas J. McCarron
General President

May 16, 2003

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the 550,000 members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC), I urge you to support the "Healthy Forest Restoration Act," (H.R. 1904) introduced by Rep. Scott McInnis when the full House votes on the bill. We believe that this bill makes common sense reforms to a system that is not just broken but does more harm to our national forests than good.

We also support many of the provisions in the substitute offered by Rep. George Miller, Rep. Peter DeFazio, and Rep. Nick J. Rahall, and applaud their efforts to broaden the bipartisan effort to solve the wildfire problem. They have introduced thoughtful, progressive ideas into the debate. We sincerely appreciate their contributions and look forward to continued cooperation.

The UBC represents 50,000 forest product workers throughout the West, Midwest and Southern states of the United States. Although most of these members work on private lands, they often border public forests. Therefore, our members have a front row seat to the problems that plague our national forests. They have witnessed how the lack of active management has allowed our forests to become clogged with additional trees and underbrush that have helped fuel the forest fires that have plagued the West in recent years. They have also seen first hand how a small pest infestation can spread from a handful of trees to devastate large sections of public and private forests. Active forest management would eliminate these problems. However, the current system is so hidebound that by the time Forest Service staff can begin to solve the problem, it is often too late.

The changes made in this legislation will allow the Forest Service to make quick decisions that will save thousands of acres of U.S. forestland. By adopting changes recommended by the Western Governors Association, the bill ensures

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the public and other interested parties will still have input in important decisions, but also limits the ability of some groups to obstruct the process through endless lawsuits.

These changes, along with additional research monies and biomass incentives, will ensure that American forests and the surrounding communities will be at reduced risk.

Please support H.R. 1904. The changes made in the legislation will not only keep our forests healthy, but also ensure that America's working families and rural economies that rely on the adjacent private forests are protected.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. McCarron
General President