

March 6, 2024

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA), I write to express my organization's support of provisions of the FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act that provide much-needed funding for wildfire prevention and suppression activities.

As you may know, NWPPA comprises of over 150 community-owned electric utilities in the Western United States and British Columbia serving over 4.5 million electricity customers. We are rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, and public utility districts governed by the people we serve and located in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The FY2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act would provide \$3.2 billion for wildland fire management and prevention activities. This funding level represents an increase of \$260 million of the amount provided in FY2023. This funding will help protect many of the rural communities we serve.

Many of NWPPA's member utilities live in a near-constant threat of wildfire as they and their consumers are in and near National forests. Each year, catastrophic wildfires break out across the West, and these communities have seen devastating destruction. Federal funds to manage overgrown forests, to provide fire breaks, reduce hazardous fuels, and undertake additional fire-preventative measures are essential to preventing the devastation that can come from out-of-control wildfires.

Additionally, utility rights-of-way corridors that cross federal forests to bring electricity to remote areas are especially at risk of hazardous trees and other vegetation located on federal lands that may encounter electric infrastructure and ignite a wildfire. We encourage the addition of adequate funding for vegetation maintenance and management of the federal lands located immediately adjacent to these corridors as especially critical to prevent wildfire.

NWPPA's member utilities strive to provide reliable, safe power to the consumer-owners they serve. In order to best protect the communities in which we live and serve, it is crucial that forest management and wildfire prevention and suppression activities are given sufficient funding, and we appreciate the work of Congress to address these vital concerns.

Sincerely,



Kurt Miller  
Executive Director, NWPPA