



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

444 North Capitol Street NW | Suite 387 | Washington, DC 20001 | www.stateforesters.org

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

The National Association of State Foresters is pleased to write to you today in support of S. 433—a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators King (I-ME) and Wicker (R-MS), to be included in the 2023 Farm Bill. S. 433 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to convene a blue-ribbon panel to review the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service).

NASF represents the heads of state forestry agencies for all 50 states, five U.S. territories, three nations in compacts of free association with the U.S., and the District of Columbia. State foresters cooperatively administer the FIA program with the Forest Service, and every year states around the country contribute upwards of \$5 million to deliver this critical program for the nation's forests and their many and diverse stakeholders.

The FIA program, managed by Forest Service, Forest and Rangeland Research, is the only comprehensive inventory system in the United States for assessing the health and sustainability of the nation's forests across all ownerships. FIA provides essential data related to forest species composition, forest growth rates, and forest health data, and it delivers baseline inventory estimates used in Forest Action Plans. Further, this data is used by academics, researchers, industry, and others to understand forest trends and support investments in forest products facilities that provide jobs and products to society. The program provides unbiased information used in monitoring of wildlife habitat, wildfire risk, insect and disease threats, invasive species spread, and response to priorities identified in the Forest Action Plans.

NASF has been both a strong proponent of FIA as well as an advocate for program change and is uniquely positioned with respect to FIA program delivery, as the only partner contributing significant dollars to collecting and analyzing data nationwide. NASF has been a strong advocate of bringing additional resources to the FIA program and pushing for them to be used as efficiently as possible. We appreciate the efforts from Senators King (I-ME) and Wicker (R-MS) to introduce bipartisan legislation to convene a federal advisory panel tasked with making recommendations to

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

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support data collection critical to the health of America's forests, and support including this provision in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kacey KC", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kacey KC
NASF President
Nevada State Forester