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September 12, 2016

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry Committee
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry Committee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of its more than 1.1 million members, the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) supports H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, as amended by the Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act, offered as a substitute amendment by Chairman Roberts. This bill, as amended, would improve federal forest health and resilience to wildfires. These efforts will reduce catastrophic wildfires and bring relief to millions of Americans who own property and homes in and adjacent to forested areas.

This legislation immediately reduces and prevents the threat of wildfires by:

- Allowing the fast and efficient removal of dead trees before and after a wildfire;
- Clarifying and improving categorical exclusions that are used for routine wildfire prevention and forest management activities; and
- Authorizing new sources of revenue for forest management and wildfire prevention activities.

The Association is also pleased that the bill incentivizes robust collaboration among all interested stakeholders at the state and local level, and facilitates the creation and implementation of innovative wildfire prevention programs.

NAR looks forward to working with Congress to address the disastrous consequences of wildfires on property owners while protecting the environment and bringing certainty to forest management practices

Sincerely,



Tom Salomone
2016 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

