

June 22, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

As entities responsible for delivering sustainable water supply and renewable hydropower for millions of citizens throughout the western U.S., we are writing in support of H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. National Forest lands are the largest single source of water in the U.S. and in some regions of the west contribute nearly 50% of the overall water supply that supports our farms and cities. The current, unhealthy state of these forests, which contain some of the nation's most valuable watersheds, increases the threat of catastrophic wildfires. These high intensity wildfires jeopardize the reliability, volume and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans, along with the wildlife, recreational, and multi-purpose value of these lands.

The H.R. 2936 supports collaborative forest management, streamlines the environmental review process, addresses the unsustainable practice of fire borrowing, and includes an innovative arbitration process. We believe it is critical that both forest management reforms and resolution of the "fire borrowing" issue are addressed in any legislation to ensure on-the-ground forest restoration activities can proceed at the pace and scale of the problem.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and urge prompt passage of H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

National Water Resources Association  
Utah Water Users Association  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Placer County Water Agency  
South Tahoe Public Utility District