

TERRY A. HART
CHAIRMAN
DISTRICT 1

SAL PACE
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 3

LIANE "BUFFIE" MCFADYEN
CHAIR PRO TEM
DISTRICT 2

PETER BLOOD
INTERIM COUNTY
ATTORNEY

BOARD OF PUEBLO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 15, 2013

Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Edward Markey, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

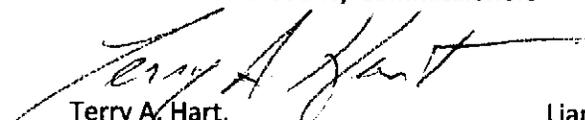
This letter serves to express our support of the *Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act*, or H.R. 818, which gives individual states the authority to identify areas which pose a future risk of fire due to the bark beetle epidemic, drought, or deteriorating forest health conditions and high risk for wildfires, and to put in place emergency hazardous fuel reduction projects to address those conditions.

As County Commissioners, we have great concerns related to devastating wild fires that could ignite in our county due to the conditions listed above. We appreciate the fact that this bill allows the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, working in consultation with governors and county commissioners from affected counties, to designate high risk areas on lands under their jurisdiction.

This bill also permanently authorizes the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with state foresters to authorize them to provide forest, rangeland, and watershed protection services on applicable federal lands. Cooperation of this type is critical for enhancing landscape level conservation practices as well as to address forest health and wildfire concerns.

We highly recommend that the Committee bring H.R. 818 up for consideration to provide the necessary tools to land managers in order to address forest health and management.

Sincerely,
Board of Pueblo County Commissioners


Terry A. Hart,
Chair


Liane "Buffie" McFadyen,
Chair Pro Tem


Sal Pace,
Commissioner

PUEBLO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
215 W. 10TH ST., PUEBLO, CO 81003-2992
(719) 583-6000
FAX: (719) 583-6549
www.co.pueblo.co.us