



DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Dist. 1: C. Douglas Atchley - Dist. 2: C. Bruce Hovde - Dist. 3: J. Mark Roeber

February 26, 2013

Representative Scott Tipton
218 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tipton,

The Delta Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) fully supports H.R. 818, the Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act. Delta County is 55% federal land and many of our private parcels are forestlands, therefore the coordinated management of these acres is critical to the long term health of our county and communities. The bark beetle epidemic is currently infesting Delta County and we are working with the timber industry to bring education and active management to these areas. This act will directly help us with this endeavor.

HR 818 provides for coordination among federal land management agencies, governors and county commissioners to address specific areas. This expedited coordination will help local officials and landowners address epidemics early and thus reduce the spread of infestation. The local officials are the most experienced with the problems and therefore the coordination of dollars will be more strategic. In addition, extending stewardship contracting will provide a favorable business climate and sustainability to our struggling timber industry.

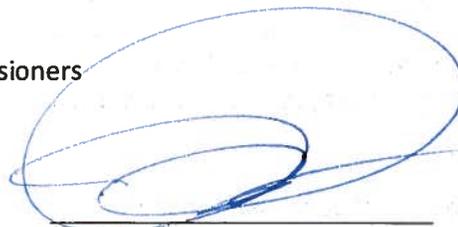
The need for targeted restoration and stewardship becomes more apparent each year that the era of no management continues. Federal emphasis on bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions and high risk of wildfires will assist our local U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management agencies, counties and landowners to more effectively address the real problems in our forestlands.

We urge Congress to pass and provide funding for H.R. 818.

Respectfully yours,

Board of Delta County Commissioners


C. Douglas Atchley, Chairman


C. Bruce Hovde, Vice Chairman


J. Mark Roeber, Commissioner