MOFFAT COUNTY

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We understand that the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands will be considering HR 818, the Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act. We support proactive measures to address forest health and mitigate the dangers unnaturally intense wild fires pose to human safety, property, infrastructure, wildlife habitat, and water quality. HR 818 contains provisions that we believe take much needed steps to address this issue.

Specifically, HR 818 vests actual authority to identify high risk areas and initiate mitigation measures to those most able to recognize the risk and with the most at stake should a wild fire erupt, that is, the respective states in coordination with county governments. While we appreciate any efforts to include our input in an advisory or cooperative role, we very much prefer the flexibility allowed to actually initiate mitigation measures.

Moffat County supports the local involvement in decision making. HR 818 also recognizes the importance of cooperative mitigation efforts. We further appreciate the expedited procedures allowed for in HR 818 for emergency hazardous fuels reduction projects in identified high risk areas.

Thank you for your efforts regarding this issue, and for providing state and local government the tools and provisions necessary to ensure the protection of our public lands and forest health.

HR 818 would be a valuable tool to address fire mitigation in the long term, and wish to express our full support for the bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the below listed commissioners.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Grobe, Chair
Commissioner, District 2

John S. Kinkaid
Commissioner, District 1

Thomas J. Mathers
Commissioner, District 3

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