



811 N. GLENN ROAD ● CASPER, WYOMING 82601 ● PHONE (307) 265-5250 ● FAX (307) 234-9701
WWW.WYOWOOL.COM ● wyowool@wyowool.org
Executive Director: Amy W. Hendrickson

October 24, 2017

U.S. Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper and Members of Committee:

On behalf of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA), we wish to lend our support for the proposed Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views on this important legislation.

Founded in 1905, the Wyoming Wool Growers Association is one of the oldest livestock producer associations in Wyoming. We advocate for sheep and livestock producers throughout the state and for the businesses, communities, and families that support the agricultural industry in Wyoming. Wildfire presents a tremendous threat to our members and their communities, and to the land and wildlife that surround them. Unfortunately, current federal land management policies often hinder, more than help, the effort to prevent, reduce and mitigate wildfire risk. We welcome this legislation and the Congressional recognition it represents that policy changes are needed to adequately address the increasing threat of wildfire in our country.

After careful examination and study of the provisions in this proposed bill, we believe it will help our federal land management agencies in their efforts to prevent and mitigate wildfire on public lands. We believe the bill provides increased flexibility and options to federal land managers and unlocks a variety of proven wildfire prevention and mitigation tools and approaches, such as reducing fuel loads through livestock grazing or forest thinning, removing trees that are dead or dying from insect infestation and controlling rampant expansion of undesirable plant species. Central to this are the provisions for categorical exclusions for covered vegetative management activities. This policy will encourage federal agencies to utilize a variety of tools to manage lands with the goal of reducing wildfire risk. Further, the bill contains provisions that lessen administrative burdens on land management agencies, which have often been the root of litigation and a restriction on the ability of agencies to manage effectively. These provisions are key policy changes that we support.

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association greatly appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this important legislation. We enthusiastically support the proposed Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act and encourage members of the Committee to also support this bill. If additional information is needed, please don't hesitate to contact me. I may be reached by email at amy@wyowool.com or by phone at 307-265-5250.

Sincerely,


Amy W. Hendrickson
Executive Director

President:	Vice President:	Treasurer:	AUX President:	Directors:					
Kay Neves	Vance Broadbent	Lisa Keeler	Marcia Federer	Jim Dona	Mike Curuchet	Makayla Mette	Tommy Moore	Regan Smith	
<i>Emblem, WY</i>	<i>Evanston, WY</i>	<i>Kaycee, WY</i>	<i>Cheyenne, WY</i>	<i>Glenrock, WY</i>	<i>Kaycee, WY</i>	<i>Casper, WY</i>	<i>Midwest, WY</i>	<i>Powell, WY</i>	