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STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
Brad Little, Governor
Lawrence E. Denney, Secretary of State
Lawrence G. Wasden, Attorney General
Brandon D Woolf, State Controller
Sherri Ybarra, Sup't of Public Instruction

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Thank you for your leadership on forest health and fuels treatment so we can better address the increased threat from wildfire. We see great value in collaborating on initiatives including Good Neighbor Authority, Shared Stewardship, the Forest Legacy grant program, and our two recently funded Joint Chiefs projects.

We are grateful for these opportunities to collaborate with the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. We are also excited by the prospect for further collaboration under the Forest Service's recently released 10 Year Strategy for Combating the Wildfire Crisis.

With four of the 10 high risk fire-shed landscapes identified by the wildfire crisis plan in Idaho, we are highly motivated to expand our forest health treatment efforts. If there is room in the decision-making process, please consider including Idaho in Phase 1 of the new strategy.

Besides sufficient funding, Idaho has the ingredients for successful implementation already in place: shovel-ready fuels reduction projects and a robust industry infrastructure. Our mills have sufficient capacity to process more sawlogs into the lumber and fiber America needs to fuel new construction.

Collaboration between the Forest Service and the State of Idaho on Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority have delivered remarkable results. Working together allows us to accomplish far more than either party could do alone. Other Western states look upon our partnership as the model they seek to emulate for implementing cross-boundary forest health initiatives.

Nationally, addressing the wildfire crisis includes significant challenges related to scalability, expanding workforce capacity, forest restoration, and ensuring fiscal accountability. This leads to another good reason to include Idaho in Phase 1. Building upon our past collaborative

successes, Idaho can become the proving ground for this new national strategy to reduce wildfire risk, simplifying implementation for other states.

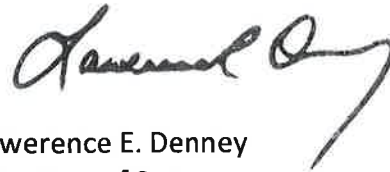
We know working together improves forest health. We are committed to working with you to step up fuels and forest health treatments to match the formidable scale of Idaho's wildfire risk.

Sincerely,

Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners



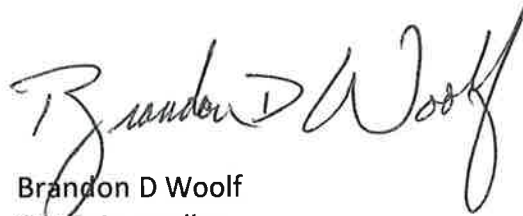
Brad Little
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