



**WESTERN  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION**

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Chairman

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
Vice Chair

Pam O. Inmann  
Executive Director

Headquarters:  
1600 Broadway  
Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378  
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:  
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 388  
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402  
Fax 202-624-7707

[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S 128, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Room S 128, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 LHOB, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Rogers and Ranking Members Rogers and Dicks:

On behalf of western governors we write to request your assistance and support for allocating funding in the current fiscal cycle to address the risks and threats posed by the millions of acres of trees killed by various insects and diseases on our National Forests—in some cases, these have reached epidemic, unprecedented proportions.

We appreciate earlier efforts by the Appropriation Committees to fund the restoration work that needs to be done in these insect and disease impacted forests. We request that every effort be made immediately to apply any unused carryover fire suppression funding to expand and accelerate that restoration work. We believe the condition of our forests warrant preventive action given the scale of this emergency situation.

While it's critical to address the federal deficit, and we don't want to get in the way of serious bipartisan efforts to do that, it's frankly penny-wise and dollar foolish to cut back on or fail to robustly fund restoration efforts for insect and disease mitigation in the West. We are risking a far higher cost in dollars, property and lives if we fail to address the threats and risks of an unfortunate catastrophic fire season.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for all of your efforts to help address this urgent problem.

Sincerely,

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Chairman

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington  
Vice Chair

Chairmen Inouye and Rogers  
and Ranking Members Rogers and Dicks  
March 9, 2011  
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John Hickenlooper  
Governor of Colorado  
Forest Health Co-lead Governor