



MAY 22 2012



The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009 or FLAME Act of 2009 directed the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly, to submit to Congress a report that contains a cohesive wildfire management strategy, consistent with the recommendations described in recent reports of the Government Accountability Office regarding management strategies. We recognize that wildland fire management issues cross all lands and jurisdictions and involve a complex matrix of land and resource values, social concerns, and varying agency missions, goals, and policies. Therefore, our decision was to pursue a collaborative, three-phased planning and risk analysis effort involving Federal, state, tribal, local, and non-governmental partners.

In March 2011, the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy) was transmitted to Congress, marking completion of the first phase of the effort. The Cohesive Strategy now stands as a foundational document, articulating our shared vision and national goals for the future of fire management: restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes, creating fire-adapted communities, and improving wildfire response.

Our focus throughout the past year has been on potential solutions to wildfire issues across all lands, through active engagement of all levels of government and interested non-governmental organizations, as well as the public. Collectively, we have been successful in completing regional assessments in the Northeast, the South, and the West regions of the country. These assessments identified region-specific values, trends, objectives, and actions relative to wildland fire management. The enclosed National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy - Phase II National Report represents completion of the second phase of this effort and is a significant step forward in addressing risks posed by wildfire.

Our next step, the third and final phase of the effort, will build on the work accomplished in previous phases as regional and national risk-based analyses and action plans are completed. The risk-based analyses will examine the potential consequences, benefits, and alternative actions to enhance decisionmaking across jurisdictional boundaries. The action plans will articulate commitments toward progress in achieving the goals defined within the Cohesive Strategy.

The Honorable Jack Reed

Page 2

Inclusiveness and an enhanced level of collaboration continue to renew and strengthen our development of strategies for efficient, effective wildland fire management across the United States. This collaboration will enable us to achieve a shared vision for present and future wildland fire and land management goals, objectives, and activities across all lands.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior



Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Enclosure