



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

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March 5, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack:

On behalf of the nearly 10,000 chief fire and emergency officers of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I am pleased to relay our gratitude for having been afforded the opportunity to participate as full partners in the creation and completion of the Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management, as authorized in the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act). The IAFC is proud to have worked for the enactment of this law and endorses the processes utilized in the development of both the *Report to Congress* and the *Path Towards a Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Cohesive Strategy).

The Cohesive Strategy's earliest success brought all of the stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, local and others, to the table. This diverse group engaged in a beneficial and fruitful dialogue, creating a wildland fire management strategy to serve the overall need, and not just that of one or two parties. We are especially pleased that the strategy includes a focus on firefighter safety and fire suppression as one of the three tenets. The focus on restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes, creating fire-adaptive communities and suppressing fires effectively will positively impact our nation's response to wildland fire well into the future.

Once again, we look forward to continued engagement in the next phases of the Cohesive Strategy, including continued fire service representation on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and Wildland Fire Executive Committee and the working groups that will be formed to complete the strategy's action plans. We thank you both for your agencies' continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Metcalf".

Chief William R. Metcalf, EFO, CFO, MIFireE
President and Chairman of the Board