

Megafire Action:

“Our communities know firsthand how devastating megafires can be, and they’ve been proactively managing their lands to better prepare for wildfires. Senator Luján’s LEAF Act recognizes that leadership and ensures that we can both leverage local expertise and empower them to make our forests more resilient,” **said Matt Weiner, Founder and CEO of Megafire Action.** “We are proud to support the LEAF Act and commend Senator Luján’s leadership securing this bill in the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act.”

American Conservation Coalition Action:

“People who live and work closest to the land know best how to care for it. As we work to restore forest health and reduce the growing risk of wildfires across the country, we should prioritize local expertise. The American Conservation Coalition Action and its thousands of members nationwide commend this effort to give preference to local contractors for forest management projects, strengthening local economies while helping our forests thrive again,” **said Chris Barnard, President, American Conservation Coalition Action.**

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC):

“The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC) strongly supports the Local Employment Access for our Forests (LEAF) Act of 2025. Rural communities across the West hold the knowledge, workforce, and commitment needed to manage forests more effectively and restore ecosystem health. The LEAF Act recognizes and empowers this capacity by giving preference to local contractors – those who live in, work in, and understand the landscapes they are stewarding. By creating clearer pathways for rural businesses, Tribal contractors, and community-based organizations to access federal contracting opportunities, this bill will support both ecological and economic resilience,” **said Laurel Harkness, RVCC Coalition Director.**

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO):

“Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) is pleased to see the Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) advancing, following its passage by the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry with a strong bipartisan leadership and support, which demonstrates a shared commitment to addressing the urgent wildfire threats facing public lands across the West. HECHO strongly supports FOFA as a critical step toward reducing catastrophic wildfire risk, restoring forest health, and empowering local communities to be part of the solution,” **said Camilla Simon, Executive Director of HECHO.** “Additionally, we support the Contract Preference for Local Contractors for Certain Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects, which was introduced by Senator Ben Ray Luján. This important measure requires the Forest Service to prioritize local contractors for hazardous fuel mitigation projects, ensuring that forest restoration efforts build community resilience to overgrown, fire-prone landscapes while also strengthening local economies.”

Forest Stewards Guild

“Senator Luján’s focus on local contractors is smart,” **said Zander Evans, Executive Director of the Forest Stewards Guild.** “Prioritizing local contractors will help build economies in the rural communities that need it most. Local contractors have insights into the markets, ecology, communities, and other elements that aid fuel treatment effectiveness and efficiency in their area.”

New Mexico State Forester

“The Senate Agriculture Committee’s changes to the Fix Our Forest Act are essential to quickly reduce wildfire risk in New Mexico,” **said Laura McCarthy, New Mexico State Forester.** “We appreciate Senator Luján’s leadership to amend the bill to better coordinate regional wildfire research with state universities, expand tree nursery production for burned areas, promote local contracting for fuels reduction treatments, and help agencies use wildfire AI technology.”

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

“Science and collaboration must guide how we address the growing challenges of wildfire. Establishing regional wildland fire research centers will strengthen partnerships between agencies and universities, improve forest and watershed health, and help sustain the fish and wildlife habitat that hunters and anglers rely on,” **said Joel Pedersen, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.** “The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership applauds Senator Luján’s leadership in advancing this important Fix Our Forests Act amendment aimed at guiding efforts to protect communities, landscapes, and fire managers.”