October 13, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Jeffries:

America's electric utilities are working every day to provide reliable electricity to customers at the lowest cost possible while making substantial investments to strengthen and modernize the electric grid. Reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires is an important part of that effort. The Edison Electric Institute ("EEI"), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association ("NRECA"), and American Public Power Association ("APPA") strongly support the Fix Our Forests Act (S. 1462/H.R. 471) and urge Congress to pass this bipartisan legislation for the President to sign before the 119th Congress concludes.

Electric utilities across America are investing billions of dollars in wildfire mitigation programs, grid hardening, vegetation management, and advanced monitoring technologies to better protect the communities they serve. However, federal permitting policies often delay or even outright prevent that foundational wildfire mitigation work on public lands, which jeopardizes communities, public safety, and electric reliability. Successfully addressing these challenges requires partnership among electric utilities, federal agencies, states, and local communities.

The Fix Our Forests Act would provide common-sense tools to help reduce wildfire risk before catastrophic fires occur. The legislation would help accelerate forest management activities, improve hazardous fuels reduction efforts, strengthen wildfire preparedness and response capabilities, support innovative wildfire technologies, and improve coordination among the many entities responsible for managing wildfire risk. It also includes important provisions to improve vegetation management around electric transmission infrastructure, helping electric utilities more effectively maintain rights-of-way on federal lands.

These reforms will help strengthen grid reliability and protect customers from the growing impacts associated with catastrophic wildfires. More effective wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts can reduce damage to infrastructure, improve community resilience, and minimize costs that ultimately affect customers. As demand for electricity continues to grow, it is critical that electric utilities and federal agencies have the tools necessary to proactively address wildfire risks and maintain reliable, affordable service.

The Fix Our Forests Act represents a bipartisan opportunity to reduce wildfire risk, strengthen energy infrastructure, and better protect communities nationwide. We urge Congress to take meaningful action that will help communities better prepare for and withstand wildfire risk by passing the Fix Our Forests Act. Advancing this legislation will also provide greater certainty for electric utilities and their federal partners as they plan and invest in long-term wildfire mitigation and resilience efforts. We stand ready to work with you to advance these shared goals.

Sincerely,

Drew Maloney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Edison Electric Institute

Jim Matheson
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scott Corwin
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Public Power Association