

Chris Polychron, CIPS, CRS, GRI
2015 President

Dale A. Stinton
Chief Executive Officer

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
DIVISION**

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President
Scott Reiter, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Ph. 202-383-1194 Fax 202-383-7580
www.REALTOR.org

July 8, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Conaway
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Agriculture
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bishop, Grijalva, Conaway, and Peterson:

On behalf of its more than one million members, the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) supports H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. This bill, which is scheduled for debate on the floor of the House on Thursday, July 9, would improve forest health and resilience to wildfires in federal forests. These efforts will reduce the occurrence of catastrophic wildfires and bring relief to millions of Americans who own property and homes in and adjacent to forested areas.

The Resilient Federal Forests Act empowers the Forest Service to immediately reduce the threat of wildfires and insect infestation by:

- Allowing the fast and efficient removal of dead trees after a wildfire;
- Clarifying and improving categorical exclusions that are used for routine wildfire prevention and forest management activities;
- Discouraging frivolous litigation against the Forest Service, which can inhibit forest recovery and wildfire prevention efforts; and
- Providing new sources of revenue to be used to fund additional forest management initiatives.

The bill also incentivizes robust collaboration among all interested stakeholders at the state and local level and facilitates the creation and implementation of innovative wildfire prevention programs.

NAR looks forward to working with Congress to address the disastrous consequences of wildfires on property owners while protecting the environment and bringing certainty to the forest management sector.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

