

2025 Federal Legislation

Recommendation for Support Position – March 5, 2025 Legislative Committee

S. 306 – Fire Ready Nation

Cantwell D-WA

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire
Resilience

- Establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and wildfire smoke related forecasting, for which NOAA currently has no defined authority in law for its wildfire services. S. 306 has bipartisan support.
- Establish a permanent Fire Weather Services Program and authorize funding for research and acquisition of new technologies to prevent wildfires and forecast weather conditions that cause and impact wildfire. It would strengthen Federal firefighting tools such as unmanned aircraft to gather chemical and survey data, codify the Incident Meteorologist (IMET) Service into law, and share data collected by NOAA across multiple federal agencies to improve fire weather data collection and coordination.
- Included as a provision in the next round of amendments to the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act (Weather Act) of 2017. Legislation to reauthorize the Weather Act passed the U.S. House in April 2024 but was not acted upon by the U.S. Senate.

S. 341 and H.R. 903 – Wildfire Smoke Health Impacts

Merkley D-OR and Thompson
D-WA

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire
Resilience

- Amend the Clean Air Act (CAA) to provide Federal grant funding to improve air quality as a result of wildfire smoke. Invest in measures that protect against the harmful effects of wildfire smoke and extreme heat.
- Encourages research, development and implementation of strategies to mitigate the impacts of these environmental hazards and support healthy communities.
- Included as a provision in the next round of amendments to the CAA. The last series of amendments to the CAA occurred in 1990 which modified and extended Federal legal authority provided by the earlier Clean Air Acts of 1963 and 1970.

H.R. 183 – Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass

McClintock R-CA

Key Advocacy Goal: Equitable
Park Access

- Amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers at no cost. Pass would also remain valid for their entire lifetime, allowing them free access to national parks and Federal recreational lands.
- By creating this lifetime pass, the legislation seeks to show appreciation for law enforcement professionals and potentially encourage their use of national parks and Federal recreational lands.
- This legislation could be included as a provision in the next Omnibus Public Lands bill. The last such bill was the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019.

H.R. 550 – Wildfire Insurance Coverage Study

Waters D-CA

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire
Resilience

- Conduct a study regarding the availability and affordability of insurance for homeowners and businesses in wildfire-prone areas across the U.S., the role that climate change plays in exacerbating wildfires and its impact on insurance markets, disparities in access to wildfire insurance coverage in low-income and underserved communities, the financial burden placed on families and businesses due to rising insurance premiums or lack of available coverage, and recommendations for federal actions to stabilize insurance markets, expand access to coverage, and protect families and businesses from the financial consequences of wildfires.
- The Park District has previously supported this legislation (Resolution NO.: 2022-12- 293 and Resolution NO.: 2024-606-116). This legislation could be included as a provision of the next major wildfire package. Any major wildfire package will likely include GAO mandates.

H.R. 582 – Wildfire Resilience Grant Program

Huffman D-CA

Key Advocacy Goal: Wildfire
Resilience

- Establish a grant program for communities to design and implement new Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Plans. Community members, first responders and relevant state agencies would develop the plans to designate a targeted, specific grant program for home hardening within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Units of “general local or regional government” are eligible for the grants.
- Will invest \$1 billion per year.
- This legislation could be included as a provision in the next revision of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relieve and Emergency Assistance Act.

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