



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS

444 North Capitol Street NW | Suite 387 | Washington, DC 20001 | www.stateforesters.org

June 09, 2021

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. Representative
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Welch,

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) writes to voice our support for *The Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act of 2021 (H.R. 1389)*. We applaud this bill and your effort to improve programs intended to prevent introduction of non-native forest pests and reduce their impacts.

NASF represents the directors of the state forestry agencies in all 50 states, eight U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. State foresters deliver technical and financial assistance to the millions of private landowners who protect forest health, wildlife habitat, and water resources through their management of more than two-thirds of forests in the U.S. State forestry agencies are also responsible for wildfire protection on more than 1.5 billion acres nationwide and routinely partner with federal agencies through congressional authorities to manage our national forests and grasslands.

One of the greatest threats identified in the states' Forest Action Plans are native and non-native pests and diseases, which have the potential to displace native trees, shrubs, and other vegetation types in forests. *The Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration Act* provides a strategy to improve forest health by improving coordination efforts combating non-native insects and disease-causing pathogens, providing needed funding for these efforts, and making invasives management a priority for federal agencies.

We stand in support of this important legislation and your efforts to pass it into law. Thank you again for your support of forest health, water resources, and diverse forested ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Joe Fox
Arkansas State Forester
NASF President

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

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