



# International Association of Fire Chiefs

Providing leadership for the fire and emergency services since 1873  
4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033 • Tel: 703.273.0911 • Fax: 703.273.9363 • www.iafc.org

13 April 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack:

On behalf of the nearly 12,000 chief fire and emergency officers of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I am pleased to relay our gratitude for having been afforded the continuing opportunity to participate as full partners in the completion of the Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire Management, as authorized in the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (FLAME Act). The IAFC is pleased with the success of Phase I, supports the efforts of the Phase II work and looks forward to continued collaboration in Phase III to develop the full *Path Towards a Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy* (Cohesive Strategy).

The Cohesive Strategy's earliest success brought all of the stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, local and others, to the table. This diverse group engaged in a beneficial and fruitful dialogue, creating a wildland fire management strategy to serves the overall need, and not just that of one or two parties. We are especially pleased that the strategy includes a focus on firefighter safety and fire suppression as one of the three tenets. The focus on restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes; creating fire-adaptive communities; and suppressing fires effectively will positively impact our nation's response to wildland fire well into the future.

Once again, we look forward to continued engagement in the next phases of the Cohesive Strategy, including continued fire service representation on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and Wildland Fire Executive Committee and the working groups that will be formed to undertake the regional analysis that will comprise the Phase III National Trade-Off Analysis. We thank you both for your agencies' continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al H. Gillespie".

Chief Al H. Gillespie, EFO, CFO, MIFireE  
President and Chairman of the Board

**Lead. Educate. Serve.**