



**FEMA**

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Salazar and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration (USFA), I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a partner in the development of Phase II of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy).

Having actively participated in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC), the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC), and the Cohesive Strategy Subcommittee (CSSC), we appreciate the level of commitment and expertise Phase II has garnered from the Cohesive Strategy's stakeholders in Federal, state, tribal, and local government, non-governmental organizations and land management entities. The success of the Cohesive Strategy will rely heavily on the continued and cooperative work these groups must perform as they strive to develop sound strategies and action plans to address the Cohesive Strategy's goals of restoring and retaining resilient landscapes, creating fire-adapted communities, and responding to wildfires.

We continue to support the Cohesive Strategy Phase II Report and look forward to participating in Phase III of this effort. USFA is committed to sharing this information with the structural firefighting community and encouraging their adoption of recommended actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Mitchell".

Ernest Mitchell  
Fire Administrator  
United States Fire Administration