



# International Association of Fire Chiefs

Providing leadership for the fire and emergency services since 1873

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14 March 2011

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 13,000 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 opportunity to participate as full partners in the creation and 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 proud to have worked for the enactment of this law and endorses the processes utilized in the development of both the *Report to Congress* and the *Path Towards a Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy)*.

The *Cohesive Strategy's* success is not only illustrated in how it brings all the stakeholders to the table – including federal, state, tribal, local and others – but also how it engages this diverse group in a beneficial dialogue, creating a wildland fire management strategy that best serves the overall need, not just that of one or two parties. We are especially pleased that the strategy included 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 have a lasting positive impact on our nation's response to wildland fire.

We look forward to continued engagement in the next phases of the *Cohesive Strategy*, including fire service representation on the Wildland Fire Executive Committee; Phase II efforts in the Regional Strategy Committees; 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 black ink that reads "John E. Parow".

Chief Jack Parow, MA, EFO, CFO  
President and Chairman of the Board