



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: H.R. 5334 - Funding Our Roads and Ecosystems Sustainably Together
(FOREST) Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Carbajal:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we would like to offer our support for your H.R. 5334, the Funding Our Roads and Ecosystems Sustainably Together (FOREST) Act, which would allocate dedicated funds to maintenance and repair of USDA Forest Service national forest system roads. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

A full one-fifth of California's land mass is managed by the USDA Forest Service (USFS), with more than 70 percent of the state's national forest system lands residing within RCRC member counties. Our communities are highly-dependent on tourism and recreation to sustain local economies, provide jobs and maintain an important connection between the state's urban residents and the vital role of California's forests. More importantly, California experiences an increasing number of catastrophic wildfires each year and maintaining national forest system roads is imperative for fire suppression access to help slow or prevent spread to neighboring communities.

RCRC believes maintenance and repair of national forest system roads is in dire need of attention and the FOREST Act is a vital step in ensuring that not only are the conditions of the roads addressed, but that the USFS budget as a whole remains intact so that the agency can continue vital forest management and fuels treatment projects to prevent future catastrophic fire events.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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For these reasons, RCRC supports the FOREST Act. If you should have any questions or would like to discuss our comments further, please do not hesitate to contact me at or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Staci Heaton", written in a cursive style.

STACI HEATON
Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate

cc: Members of the RCRC Board of Directors
The Honorable Doug La Malfa, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
Vicki Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service