



Board of County Commissioners

Dan Williams - Chairman
Erik Stone – Vice-Chairman
Bob Campbell - Commissioner

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Brittany Pettersen
Congresswoman
Colorado's Seventh District
U.S. House of Representatives
348 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pettersen,

On behalf of the Teller County Board of Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for your legislation, H.R. 528, the "*Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Act of 2025*." This bill addresses an urgent national challenge—restoring forests and landscapes devastated by wildfires and other natural disasters—and represents the kind of forward-thinking policy our communities in Colorado deeply appreciate.

As you know, Colorado has endured some of the most destructive wildfires in the nation over the past two decades. Teller County and our neighboring regions have seen firsthand the long-term consequences of high-intensity burns—erosion, degraded watersheds, declining wildlife habitat, and increased flood risk. Once a forest burns severely enough, natural regeneration can take decades, and in many cases it simply does not occur without active replanting and soil rehabilitation. These damaged areas not only scar the landscape but also place additional burdens on local governments struggling to protect drinking water supplies, maintain public safety, and restore economic activity.

Your bill takes a practical, collaborative approach to this problem. By directing the Department of the Interior to partner with states, tribes, counties, and local organizations to identify and prioritize post-disaster restoration projects, H.R. 528 ensures that reforestation efforts occur where they are needed most and with local input. Allowing the use of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts with non-federal partners will enable work to begin more quickly and make better use of community expertise, state forestry programs, and private-sector capacity.

This type of cooperative framework is precisely what is needed to reduce the federal reforestation backlog and restore healthy, resilient forests that protect watersheds, sequester carbon, and sustain local economies. The Teller County Board of Commissioners strongly supports this bipartisan effort to accelerate recovery and replanting following catastrophic events, and we commend your leadership in championing this important legislation.

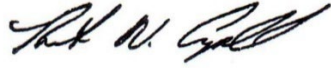
Thank you for your continued focus on practical solutions that strengthen Colorado's forests, rural communities, and public lands. We urge Congress to move swiftly to enact H.R. 528.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Williams
Chairman



Erik Stone
Vice-Chairman



Robert Campbell
Commissioner

