



July 24, 2013

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman
U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC: The Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member

Chairman Manchin,

Please accept this letter from the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona, the Flagstaff Forty, and the City of Flagstaff urging your subcommittee's support for S. 1300, the Stewardship Contracting Reauthorization Act of 2013.

As a community that is closely connected with the U.S. Forest Service and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) in our state, we are very much committed to the Congressional re-authorization of stewardship contracts that will keep our forests healthy and protect our rural communities from the constant threat of wildfires. The citizens of Flagstaff proved their commitment to forest health in November 2012 by overwhelmingly voting for a \$10 million bond to conduct forest thinning in conjunction with 4FRI.

Without the Forest Service's ability to enter into forest stewardship contracts all of our national forests, which we cherish as a country, are in great danger. We respectfully request passage of S. 1300.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Pastrick
President & CEO
Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce

Jerry Nabours
Mayor
City of Flagstaff

Richard Bowen
President
Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona

David Engelthaler
Chairman
Flagstaff Forty