<u>Wildfire Emergency Act of 2025</u>

In 2024, wildfires burned a combined 8.8 million acres across the United States, including over 1 million acres in California alone. The current fires in Los Angeles have been the worst natural disaster in the city's history, burning over 57,000 acres and destroying over 16,200 structures.

The wildfire crisis demands more proactive responses from the federal government. This bipartisan bill would take numerous steps to ensure that the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Department of the Interior (DOI) better mitigate the impact and risk of wildfires.

What the *Wildfire Emergency Act* would do:

- Provide the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with a pilot authority to leverage private financing to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration projects. The USFS would be able to expand up to 20 existing collaborative forest restoration projects using this pilot authority. The bill also requires a report to Congress on the impact of this pilot authority and any barriers to making the authority permanent.

- Establish an energy resilience program at DOE to ensure that critical facilities remain active during wildfire disruptions. Up to $100 million is authorized to make necessary retrofits for this purpose.

- Expand an existing DOE weatherization grant program to provide up to $13,000 to low-income households to make wildfire-hardening retrofits, such as ember resistant roofs or gutters.

- Expedite the placement of wildfire detection equipment on the ground, such as sensors or cameras, as well as the use of space-based observation.

- Authorize funding for programs to expand the forest conservation and wildland firefighting workforce.

- Establish a prescribed fire-training center in the West and authorize grants to support training the next generation of foresters and firefighters.

- Authorize up to $50 million to support community grants of up to $50,000 for locally-focused land stewardship and conservation.