

Dave Cochran, President
Rich Harvey, 1st Vice President
Jayson Andrus, 2nd Vice President
James Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer



Western Rep, Sean Slamon
Eastern Rep, Matt Petersen
Southern Rep, Kelly Blackmon
Past President, Mike Brown

June 20, 2025

RE: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Mitigation Alignment Project

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NFCA), I am pleased to express our support for the ongoing efforts of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Mitigation Alignment Project, an initiative led by the NFCA and supported by the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA). This collaborative effort brings together leaders from the fire service, the insurance sector, and other key stakeholders to explore alignment on effective, evidence-based wildfire risk mitigation strategies across the state.

As wildfire risk continues to grow within the wildland-urban interface, it is increasingly important that we seek locally informed, flexible, and scalable solutions. The WUI Mitigation Alignment Project presents an opportunity to voluntarily consider common standards such as the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Wildfire Prepared Home program as a benchmark worth striving for. This evidence-based program represents a meaningful step toward reducing structure ignition risks and improving resilience at the parcel level.

While we support the concept of statewide consistency and the exploration of common standards, we firmly believe that local authority and flexibility must be preserved. It is essential that each jurisdiction retains the ability to adopt and implement WUI-related strategies in a manner that reflects the unique needs, priorities, and conditions of their individual communities.

The thoughtful approach taken by the project through structured interviews, stakeholder engagement, and a recent plenary session has created a strong foundation for continued discussion. The consensus reached regarding a minimum parcel-level mitigation standard, and a hybrid inspection model provides a practical framework for jurisdictions that choose to align with best practices, without imposing a top-down mandate.

We are also grateful for the contributions of our fellow stakeholders, including the Nevada Division of Insurance, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the American Property and Casualty Insurance Association, whose engagement is helping to shape a well-rounded, informed approach to mitigation, education, and risk communication.

As future conversations explore potential regulatory or legislative actions, the NFCA is committed to remaining engaged and ensuring that local authority, operational realities, and community priorities are respected and upheld. We view this project not as a prescriptive mandate, but as a shared vision and a set of achievable goals that can guide progress in wildfire risk reduction.

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Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration on this critical issue. The NFCA looks forward to further dialogue, shared learning, and opportunities to strengthen community protection through thoughtful, cooperative efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Cochran".

President
Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Cc: Rich Harvey, Chief
Central Lyon County Fire Protection District & NFCA WFOA Rep
Ryan Sommers, Chief
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
Matt Petersen, Chief
Elko County Fire Protection District
Scott Kipper, Commissioner
Nevada Division of Insurance
Mike Dzyak, Nevada State Fire Marshal

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