



Briefing Notice

Igniting Innovation: Progress and a Path Forward for Wildfire Policy

Tuesday, March 03, 2026 • 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

Reception to Follow

Russell Senate Office Building (SR-385)

Please RSVP @ eesi.org/030326fire

Live webcast will be streamed at eesi.org/livecast



One year after the catastrophic wildfires that blazed through southern California, the **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)** and the **Federation of American Scientists (FAS)** invite you to a briefing on emerging solutions to tackle the wildfire crisis, and the federal policy strategies for getting these solutions into the field. Communities nationwide [are experiencing](#) longer wildfire seasons and more intense, destructive wildfires. Hotter and drier weather, decades of fire over-suppression leading to the buildup of flammable materials, and increasing development in and around fire-prone areas have transformed wildfire—once a natural and sustainable part of American landscapes—into a major threat. From [California](#) to [New Jersey](#), wildfires are taking a toll—costing the United States up to [\\$424 billion annually](#) and displacing tens of thousands of people.

This briefing will highlight efforts to address this crisis, including wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery policies and innovations in the United States. Panelists will identify evidence-backed approaches—from smart zoning and upgraded building codes to fuels management and early detection—and the role of federal policy in supporting the rapid development and cost-effective implementation of these tactics at scale. Attendees will leave this briefing with an understanding of how to strengthen wildfire mitigation efforts, bolster community wildfire resilience, ease the strain on emergency services, and save taxpayer dollars.

Introductory remarks by:

- ▶ **Senator John Curtis**, United States Senator (R-Utah)
- ▶ **Sen. Alex Padilla**, United States Senator (D-Calif.)

Speakers for this session include:

- ▶ **Molly Hausmann**, Chief Operating Officer, Megafire Action
- ▶ **Annie Schmidt**, Co-founder and Managing Director of Partnerships, Alliance for Wildfire Resilience
- ▶ **Sara Clark**, Partner, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger
- ▶ **Dr. Michael Falkowski**, Lead Scientist, Earth Fire Alliance
- ▶ **Dr. Hannah Safford**, Associate Director, Climate and Environment, Federation of American Scientists



This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Daniel O'Brien at dobrien@eesi.org or (202) 662-1880.

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