



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Katie Hobbs  
Arizona Secretary of State  
1700 W Washington Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1442 hazardous vegetation removal; state forester

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

As I shared in my State of the State address, guarding against wildfires is an important issue that requires a new strategy for the state. That new strategy of taking additional steps to reduce wildfire risk to Arizona communities is reflected in the Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative.

The Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative involves 1) building additional in-house capacity to remove vegetation posing wildfire risks, 2) leveraging existing partners to remove vegetation posing wildfire risks, and 3) adding additional partnerships used to remove vegetation posing wildfire risks. Senate Bill 1442 is a key component of this initiative and will allow new partners to cooperate with the Department of Forestry and Fire Management in their efforts to protect Arizona communities from devastating wildfires.

Additionally, Senate Bill 1442 allows the State Forester to use programs that build on the successful partnership with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reentry. Using the model of inmate wildland fire suppression crews, the Arizona Healthy Forest Initiative will provide opportunities for over 700 additional inmates to gain life-changing job skills and post-release opportunities.

I want to extend my gratitude to the sponsors of this legislation, Senator Kerr and Representative Griffin, and to all of the legislators supporting this critical mission. I am very pleased to sign Senate Bill 1442 today, and look forward to working with the legislature to complete the other necessary pieces of this ongoing effort to protect our forests and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey".

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
State of Arizona