

June 13, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

The undersigned organizations representing millions of forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest products manufacturers, and natural resource professionals participating in the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition (FIFB), wish to thank you for incorporating a number of the Coalition's private forest policy recommendations in the introduced Senate draft of the 2018 Farm Bill.

We look forward to working with the Committee towards passage of a bill, as we believe it is an important step forward and includes private forest provisions that are essential to healthy, thriving private forestland, forest owners, and the forest-based economy.

As a key component of our nation's agricultural economy and environment, America's private forests—covering nearly two-thirds of America's forests and owned by private owners, families, and individuals—provide Americans with clean air and water, places to hike, hunt, and fish, habitat for fish and wildlife, and thousands of forest products we use every day. Private forests support over 2.4 million rural jobs and provide 90% of our nation's wood supply. Unfortunately, these forests are facing increasing threats from insects, disease, wildfire, development pressures, and rapidly shifting markets for forest products. If not addressed, these issues put forests and the many benefits that Americans rely on from them at risk.

The Committee's draft Farm Bill includes many important policies and funding for key programs that will help tackle these challenges and improve stewardship of private and family-owned forests. We look forward to working with the Committee as the process continues to further improve funding authorizations and policy provisions that are important for ensuring private forests can remain healthy and to help our industry continue to secure new and expanded market opportunities for forest products.

Thank you again for your dedication to the 2018 Farm Bill and for including strong provisions for private forests recommended by our Coalition. The Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition is ready to assist you to ensure that the nation's private forest owners and the forest-dependent communities and industries they empower, have assurance that the tools that help keep private forests healthy and sustainable, will continue into the future.

Sincerely,

American Forest Foundation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Wood Council
American Woodcock Society
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Audubon New York
CarbonVerde, LLC
Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Conservation Forestry Partners, LLC

Empire State Forest Products Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Forestry Association of South Carolina
Green Forests Work
Hancock Natural Resource Group
Hardwood Federation
Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association
Jory Resources, Inc.
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners

National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs
National Audubon Society
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Wooden Pallet & Container Association
National Woodland Owners Association
New England Forestry Foundation
Ohio Forestry Association
Rayonier
Resource Management Service, LLC
Ruffed Grouse Society
Sazerac Company
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Society of American Foresters
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc
Sustainable Northwest
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Conservation Fund
The Lyme Timber Company
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Westervelt Company
U.S. Industrial Pellet Association
Vermont Woodlands Association
Virginia Forestry Association
Walnut Council
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Washington Forest Protection Association
Weyerhaeuser