

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Moran
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Moran,

The undersigned organizations are strong supporters of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and rely on the inventory data and analysis of America's forests that it provides. The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) houses the FIA program, which makes up the backbone of our scientific knowledge of the current state of the nation's forests. This critical information is needed to support sound policy and forest management decisions and is increasingly important for decisions regarding new and expanding markets. We urge the Congress to reverse the spending cuts to the FIA program and request funding for the program in **FY 2015 at a level of at least \$72 million toward providing an updated inventory of America's forests.**

The data and information collected by FIA serves as the basis for: identifying trends in forest ownership; assessing fish and wildlife habitat; evaluating wildfire, insect, and disease risk; predicting the spread of invasive species; determining capital investment in existing forest products facilities and selecting locations for new forest product facilities; and identifying and responding to priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans.

The Forest Service's FIA program is utilized by a large set of diverse stakeholders interested in the state of America's forests. These include forest resource managers at mills, land managers, conservation groups, and State and Federal agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

We are concerned by the cuts to FIA in recent years and ask you to renew a strong commitment to the FIA program and the crucial data it supplies to decisionmakers. Given the increasing pressures facing our forests – from wildfire, insects and disease, development, and new wood-using facilities – the FIA program is more important now than ever before. Funding the FIA program at \$72 million would provide basic support for our growing data needs.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Alliance for Community Trees
American Forest & Paper Association
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
Biomass Power Association
Biomass Thermal Energy Council
California Forestry Association
CarbonVerde, LLC
Environmental Defense Fund
Forest Business Network
Forest Landowners Association
Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee
Forest Resources Association
Forest Stewardship Council US
Framing Our Community
Friends of the Urban Forest
Georgia Forestry Association
Hardwood Federation
Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Louisiana Forestry Association
Michigan Association of Timbermen
Mississippi Forestry Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of University Forest Resources Programs
National Institute for Elimination of Catastrophic Wildfire
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Network of Forest Practitioners
National Wood Flooring Association
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
National Woodland Owners Association
New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association
North Carolina Association of Professional Loggers, Inc
Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Ohio Forestry Association
Oregon Women in Timber
Pellet Fuels Institute
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Railway Tie Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Society of American Foresters
South Carolina Forestry Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Tennessee Forestry Association
Texas Forestry Association
The American Chestnut Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Treated Wood Council
United States Industrial Pellet Association
United Steelworkers
Virginia Forestry Association