

May 14, 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,

We the undersigned organizations, representing millions of forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest product manufacturers, and natural resource professionals write to you to offer our support for S 2790, the Community Wood Energy Innovation Act of 2018, sponsored by Senators Shaheen and Collins.

Today, across the U.S., from the coast of Maine to the coast of California and even in the southeastern U.S., forest owners, managers, forest products facilities, and conservationists alike face a growing challenge: finding uses and markets for low value, small diameter wood that needs to be removed from our forests to improve forest health and resilience or is a byproduct of forest product manufacturing.

As these markets shrink and shift, tackling pressing issues of today such as our growing wildfire challenges out west, increasing insect infestations across the country, or the overall competitiveness of the forest products sector, are increasingly difficult and costly.

The Community Wood Energy Innovation Act of 2018 will help address these challenges by investing in both energy and other innovative wood products facilities that will help create new or bolster existing markets for low value, small diameter wood and byproducts of wood manufacturing. Not only will this important legislation help address our forest health issues but it will also help support rural economies, address energy needs in rural communities with a sustainable, renewable energy source, encourage the highest and best use of small diameter and low-value wood products, with a focus on efficiency and local benefit, and stimulate use of innovative, sustainable building materials in our built environment.

Please consider incorporating this important legislation in the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization or other moving legislative vehicles, as our forests and our rural communities need urgent relief from this growing problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

American Forest Foundation  
American Forests  
American Loggers Council  
American Wood Council  
American Woodcock Society

Appalachian Mountain Club  
Biomass Energy Resource Center  
Biomass Thermal Energy Council  
CarbonVerde  
Conservation Forestry, LLC  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Florida Forestry Association  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
Green Forests Work  
Gulf Coast Land Trust  
Hancock Natural Resource Group  
Hardwood Federation  
Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC  
Maine Pellet Fuels Association  
Massachusetts Forest Alliance  
Mississippi Land Trust  
Mississippi River Trust  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of University Forest Resource Programs  
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association  
National Woodland Owners Association  
New York Bioenergy Association  
Northern Forest Center  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Pellet Fuels Institute  
PotlatchDeltic  
Renewable Energy Vermont  
Resource Management Service, LLC  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Sazerac Company  
Sustainable Northwest  
Texas Forestry Association  
The Lyme Timber Company  
The Nature Conservancy  
The New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association  
The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests  
The Society of American Foresters  
The Westervelt Company  
Trees Forever  
Vermont Woodlands Association  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Washington Forest Protection Association

Watershed Research & Training Center  
Wildlife Mississippi