

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our undersigned organizations represent hundreds of American businesses and tens of thousands of workers employed by the forest products industry. As you propose additional measures to assist workers, families, and the U.S. economy in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we urge you to make strategic investments in the management of our federal forests and public lands.

With your leadership, the timber sale program from the Forest Service has reached its highest level in over 20 years. The recommendations below are intended to build on this progress and reduce the damage to the economy from the current disruption.

In these dynamic and challenging times, we strongly believe any federal taxpayer-funded stimulus package should prioritize investments in federal forests and public lands that:

- 1) Create or sustain American family-wage, year-round jobs;
- 2) Provide direct and lasting benefits to the American public and future generations; and
- 3) Build a resilient public and private forestry infrastructure and workforce to respond to declining forest health conditions as well as future global public health and economic disruptions.

The forest products industry, infrastructure, and workforce are constituted and positioned to grow to help achieve these national goals. As you consider additional supplemental investments in response to COVID-19, we strongly recommend the package include;

\$250 Million for the National Forest System – Forest Products program, to help prepare and offer timber sales to help sustain rural jobs, improve forest health, and reduce fire danger on our National Forests.

\$250 Million for the National Forest System – Vegetation Management program.
These funds should be made available to implement NEPA ready projects in areas

where proposed Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act projects have yet to receive final Secretarial approval.

\$750 Million for Forest Service Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Roads. This critical investment would address 20 percent of the Forest Service’s documented roads maintenance backlog. This funding should focus on providing access for resource management, recreation, and public safety.

\$25 million for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon & California – Western Oregon Resource Management to allow the agency to accelerate efforts to increase timber management activities across over 2 million acres BLM forestland in western Oregon to create additional jobs, improve forest health, and generate revenues for essential local public services.

We believe the programs and amounts recommended can be timely and prudently implemented, providing some stability for hard hit rural economies and a good return on the investment for the American taxpayer.

Investments in active forest management would help support existing and new manufacturing, transportation, and supply chain infrastructure while immediately creating thousands of family-wage jobs across the United States.

These investments would provide direct and lasting benefits to the American public and families by improving forest health, reducing wildfire and smoke risks, and growing recreation, hunting, fishing, and public access opportunities.

Finally, as determined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the forest products industry and its workforce are essential and critical to supplying goods, services, and supplies every American uses and needs, every day. Investments that bolster and grow this critical infrastructure now will help ensure the U.S. economy is more prepared, resilient, and responsive to future public health and economic challenges.

Federal Forest Resource Coalition
Alaska Forestry Association
American Walnut Manufacturers Assoc.
Associated Oregon Loggers
Carolina Loggers Association
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assoc.
Minnesota Forest Industries
Missouri Forest Products Association

American Forest Resource Council
American Loggers Council
Associated California Loggers
California Forestry Association
Colorado Timber Industry Assoc.
Michigan Forest Products Council
Minnesota Timber Producers Assoc.
Montana Logging Association

Montana Wood Products Association
Oregon Women In Timber
Texas Forestry Association
Washington Contract Loggers Association
West Virginia Forestry Association
Western Pallet Association

Oregon Forest Industries Council
South Carolina Timber Producers A
Texas Logging Council
Washington Hardwoods Comm.
Western Hardwood Association