

October 28, 2013

The Honorable Tom Tidwell  
Chief, United States Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chief Tidwell,

We are writing to first thank you for your continued leadership in promoting wood as a green building material. ***We ask that you renew your commitment to this effort by investing \$1 million in your FY2015 budget for a partnership between WoodWorks and the US Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory to bring products to market especially in the non-residential building sector.***

As you know, our diverse group of organizations is united around the idea that increasing the use of wood in building construction is not only good for the economy and jobs, it's also critical to restoring and sustaining America's working forests—both public and privately owned forests—and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, and water pollution.

The U.S. Forest Service plays an essential role in ensuring greater wood use in building construction. As you've demonstrated over the past year, you are leading the way by demonstrating how a federal agency can use more wood in building construction. But WoodWorks provides the ability to educate and integrate architects and contractors in the environmental, economic, and societal benefits of increasing wood use in commercial buildings. This market delivery is essential for positioning wood as a building material of choice.

Our request of \$1 million for a partnership between WoodWorks and the Forest Products Laboratory is necessary to match the Canadian government's \$1.7 million investment in WoodWorks as well as the softwood lumber industry's \$2.5 million investment through the Softwood Lumber Board. Without this U.S. government investment, important work underway including new wood buildings five stories and higher will not be completed and the broad mandate of the program will be in jeopardy.

Market growth was one of the top mandates identified at the Canada/ U.S. Forest Health Summit II, where priority recommendations included increasing the use of wood and setting a market growth target of 20%, by (among other things) showcasing mid-rise and tall wood buildings and communicating wood's benefits. WoodWorks is already in place implementing these exact priorities and, although Canada has backed the importance of this effort with funding, the U.S. has not yet shown the same commitment to this cause. Government funding of the WoodWorks program provides an opportunity for the government to leverage the \$2.5 million contribution from industry to achieve these priority recommendations.

***Growing wood products markets will ultimately help the Forest Service, other federal land management agencies, and industrial and family forest owners all reduce the costs of much needed forest restoration and maintenance work.***

In addition to asking for this investment, ***we also ask that you continue to provide regular updates on the progress you are making through your USFS efforts to continue to promote***

***wood as a green building material.*** Rita Hite at the American Forest Foundation (202) 463-2594 or [rhite@forestfoundation.org](mailto:rhite@forestfoundation.org) will continue to be the point of contact to arrange these updates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Forest Foundation  
American Wood Council  
APA-The Engineered Wood Association  
Arlington Tree Farm  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Binational Softwood Lumber Council  
Boone and Crockett Club  
California Forestry Association  
California Redwood Association  
Cambridge WI  
Composite Panel Association  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
Federal Forest Resource Coalition  
Florida Forestry Association  
Forest Products National Labor Management Committee  
Forest Resources Association Inc.  
Hardwood Federation  
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association  
Idaho Forest Group  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Lyme Timber Company LP  
Minnesota Forest Industries  
Minnesota Timber Producers Association  
Mississippi Forestry Association  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of University Forest Resource Programs  
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association  
National Wood Flooring Association  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
Ohio Forestry Association  
Oregon Forest Industries Council  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
Oregon Women in Timber  
Plum Creek Timber Company  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine

Society of American Foresters  
South Carolina Forestry Association  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southern Forest Products Association  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Treated Wood Council  
Texas Forestry Association  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Washington Contract Loggers Association, Inc  
Washington Forest Protection Association  
West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association  
Weyerhaeuser  
Wildlife Mississippi  
Woodworks

Cc: Krysta Harden, Deputy Secretary, USDA  
Butch Blazer, Deputy Undersecretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA  
Jay Jensen, Associate Director Land & Water, White House Council on  
Environmental Quality  
Patrick Holmes, Special Assistant to the Undersecretary Natural Resources and  
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Mary Wagner, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service  
Jim Reaves, Deputy Chief, Research and Development, USDA Forest Service  
Jim Hubbard, Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service