

March 25, 2014

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Reed and Ranking Member Murkowski,

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