



June 26, 2018

Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman, Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

On behalf of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the membership organization that represents the 59 state and territorial foresters who manage and protect 60 percent of the United States' forests, I'd like to express our gratitude for your efforts to develop a meaningful Forestry Title in the 2018 Farm Bill and to make a request for your assistance.

There are many provisions in the Senate farm bill that will provide lasting benefits for America's forests and the communities that depend upon them. These provisions include: an allowance for more active forest management on federal lands that support wildlife habitat through categorical exclusions, support for the Community Wood Energy Program, increased funding for cross-boundary fuel treatments, continued support for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and small tracts amendment language.

Our request is this: Please consider adopting language in conference with the House that will allow land managers to address national priorities identified in state Forest Action Plans through the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program. Collectively, the state Forest Action Plans provide a roadmap for managing America's forests.

By codifying this program and funding it appropriately, state forestry agencies can tackle the nation's most pressing forest priorities in the most cost-effective, collaborative, and coordinated ways. As the Senate farm bill is worded now, many worthy, high-priority projects in the states' Forest Action Plans would not be considered for federal support.

Again, we very much appreciate all that you and your dedicated staff have accomplished in developing meaningful legislation for America's forests and look forward to working with you as the legislation proceeds.

Sincerely,

George Geissler
NASF President
Washington State Forester

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

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