



American Forest Foundation

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January 20, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks, Chairman
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Chairman Dicks:

On behalf of the American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit conservation organization that strives to ensure the continuation of America's family forests, I'd like to express our appreciation for your leadership in securing support for investments in the nation's family forests as part of the House Appropriations Committee's economic stimulus package. The Foundation, through its program, the American Tree Farm System, works with over 90,000 family forest owners, helping them practice sustainable forest management.

The \$550 million investment in US Forest Service, State and Private Forest programs your Committee is proposing will create roughly 10,000 new green jobs, stimulate rural forested-dependant economies, and provide clean, renewable energy from family forests. This investment will have the added benefit of helping family forest owners, the largest forest ownership group in the U.S., conserve their land in a time when traditional markets for their forest products are in severe decline and climate change has the potential to cause massive disruptions in forest systems.

Again, we greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to support your efforts as the legislation moves through the House and Senate and to the President's desk.

Sincerely,

Laurence D. Wiseman
President