



American Forest Foundation

1111 Nineteenth Street, NW
Suite 780
Washington, D.C. 20036

January 13, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The American Forest Foundation, a nonprofit conservation organization that strives to ensure the continuation of America's family forests, offers the following recommendations for your consideration in an economic stimulus package. The Foundation, through the American Tree Farm System Program, helps over 90,000 family forest owners practice sustainable forest management.

These recommendations, if enacted, will create thousands of new green jobs, stimulate rural economies, and provide clean, renewable energy. These recommendations have the added benefit of helping family forest owners, the largest forest ownership group in the U.S., conserve their land and begin to deal with pressing climate change threats.

Federal Funding to Support Green Jobs, and Rural Economies, and Forest Conservation:

\$800 million for US Forest Service, Private Forest Restoration Programs: including funding for private lands hazardous fuels reduction, forest health management, as well as the Forest Stewardship Program. Funding should be focused on helping family forest owners take steps to adapt and mitigate climate change impacts. Additionally, to stimulate the development of new markets opportunities and new green jobs, funding should be directed at helping family forest owners conduct assessments and inventories needed to participate in new, emerging ecosystem service markets. This will help small landowners get out in front of the challenges climate change poses and will lead to the creation of roughly 11,000 forest restoration jobs, as contractors and consulting foresters work with landowners to restore their lands.

\$100 million for US Forest Service, Economic Action Program: directed at helping rural, forested communities modify their energy systems with clean, wood to energy technologies, encouraging the use of sustainable forest biomass. This could generate roughly 500 new, green jobs.

Tax Incentives for Clean, Renewable Energy and Green Jobs:

Extension and Parity in Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit: The Production Tax Credit for renewable electricity should be extended for 5 additional years and modified to provide equal tax credits for electricity produced from sustainable forest biomass, as provided for other energy

sources. By incentivizing clean, renewable electricity production from sustainable forest biomass, thousands of green jobs, both in the woods and at the facilities will be created. Additionally, these incentives help trigger new market opportunities for family forest owners, helping them conserve and manage their land.

Extend the Cellulosic Fuels Tax Credit for five years: The Cellulosic Fuels Tax Credit included in the 2008 Farm Bill should be extended to provide added assurance to developers of biofuels in the difficult investment climate. This will provide an immediate, additional stimulus to the development of cellulosic biofuels, creating additional green jobs and boosts to rural economies.

In these difficult times, rural, forest-dependent communities in America are suffering economically as the forest products industry is facing severe market downturns and massive job cuts. As these markets decline America's family forest owners are struggling to pay their taxes, keep their forests healthy, and stay on the land. At the same time, family forests offer a solution to the nation's energy issues, if appropriate investments are made now to keep the burgeoning industry intact. The above recommendations will help address all these challenges, helping stabilize and stimulate rural communities and economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurence D. Wiseman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Laurence D. Wiseman
President

Cc: Chairman Obey, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Lewis, House Appropriations Committee
Chairman Dicks, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
Ranking Member Simpson, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee