**Statement of the Forest-Climate Working Group**

**House Agriculture Committee Passage of Budget Reconciliation**

**September 16, 2021**

*The undersigned members of the* [*Forest-Climate Working Group*](https://forestclimateworkinggroup.org/) *(FCWG), a forest sector-wide coalition founded in 2007, issued the following statement in response to the U.S. House Agriculture Committee’s passage on Monday, September 13, of a budget reconciliation package containing $40 billion dollars in forest-related provisions.*

“The House Agriculture Committee’s budget reconciliation package stands as the most significant legislative action yet to leverage forests and forest products as a powerful nature-based solution to help combat climate change. The bill’s $40 billion dollars in forest-focused investments will dramatically bolster our sector’s ability to increase resilient carbon storage in America’s forests and forest products and better protect human and natural communities from climate impacts. We commend the committee for standing with the forest community in taking this bold action.

The bill provides support for several FCWG priorities, including:

* Leveraging forestry best practices to promote wildfire resilience and recovery.
* Incentivizing private landowner actions to increase carbon sequestration
* Providing grants to foster innovation within the wood products industry.
* Investing in applied forest-climate science, as well as foundational research and technological innovation to enhance the U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Program.
* Funding urban forestry initiatives to provide equitable tree cover across our rapidly heating cities.
* Catalyzing workforce development by building a new Civilian Climate Corps.

Since 2007, the Forest-Climate Working Group has brought together every part of our sector to provide unified support for federal policies that can increase the power of America’s forests and forest products as a natural climate solution. The investments made in the House Agriculture Committee’s package represent [priorities](https://forestclimateworkinggroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FCWG-Policy-Platform-V11.pdf) that the Forest-Climate Working Group has long supported, and – combined with additional forest investments from the bipartisan infrastructure bill – will help put America on track to delivering impactful, sustainable forest-based climate solutions.”

**Signed:**

American Forest Foundation

American Forests

American Wood Council

Arbor Day Foundation

Biomass Power Association

BlueSource LLC

Boise Cascade Company

Carbon180

Chinook Forest Partners

Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc.

Drax Group PLC

EFM Investments & Advisory

Environmental Defense Fund

Enviva Biomass

Forest Landowners Association

Forest Stewards Guild

Green Diamond Resource Company

Hardwood Federation

L&C Carbon

Land Trust Alliance

Molpus Woodlands Group

National Alliance of Forest Owners

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

National Association of State Foresters

National Association of University Forest
 Resources Programs

National Wildlife Federation

National Woodland Owners Association

NCX (Natural Capital Exchange)

New England Forestry Foundation

Northern Forest Center

Open Space Institute

Pingree Associates

PotlatchDeltic

Rayonier

RenewWest

Society of American Foresters

Sustainable Forestry and African American Land
 Retention Network (SFLR)

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

The Forestland Group

The Lyme Timber Company LP

The Nature Conservancy

The Trust for Public Land

The Westervelt Company

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
 Partnership

Western Landowners Alliance

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy