



April 9, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
Forestry  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
Forestry  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chair Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, Chair Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chair Westerman, and Ranking Member Huffman,

The Forest-Climate Working Group (FCWG) has recently released an updated policy platform outlining how policymakers can help private landowners and public land managers grow powerful climate solutions in America’s forests and forest products while delivering other environmental, economic, and social benefits.

FCWG is the largest, most diverse and only national-scale forest sector coalition working to advance forests and forest products as a climate change solution. We are a broad coalition representing forest landowners, forest products, conservation, wildlife, academic, government, carbon finance and other forest sector organizations. A list of our 29 member organizations can be found [here](#).

Since our founding in 2007, the FCWG has worked with Congress to advance common sense policies that enable forests, forest products and markets to work as a tool to tackle climate change while simultaneously strengthening America’s economy and environment. We look forward to building on this success and future collaborations in this Congress.

FCWG members believe that healthy public and private forests are an essential component of America's communities, economies, and environment. Countless U.S. communities depend upon forests and forest products to deliver economic growth and environmental benefits. For America's forests to reach their full potential and continue to serve as engines for economic growth and sustainability, policymakers must support the federal programs and public-private partnerships that help these forests thrive.

The United States forest products industry accounts for approximately one percent of the nation's total GDP, producing nearly \$750 billion in products every year—seven percent of total U.S. manufacturing GDP. It employs 2 million people whose total payroll is \$165 billion annually. Sustainably managed forests provide fiber, jobs, and economic growth to communities throughout the country. Advances in the forest products industry are allowing for increased productivity while preserving the health of ecosystems, and innovation is paving the way for new products and processes that utilize forest resources sustainably.

Healthy forests act as natural buffers against wildfires, soil erosion, and flooding, and serve as safeguards for communities and agricultural lands. An estimated two-thirds of the fresh water in the U.S. originates in forested watersheds. Over 180 million people in over 68,000 communities rely on forested watersheds to capture and filter their drinking water. Forest watersheds provide more than just clean drinking water – they cleanse the air of pollution, provide a diversity of habitats for wildlife, fish, and plants; and are the setting for many different types of outdoor recreation.

Key coalition goals in our recently released policy platform provide recommendations to:

- **Advance Markets for Forest Carbon, Forest Products, and Skilled Labor:** Robust and growing markets for high quality forest carbon and forest products produced from sustainably managed forests provide important revenue to landowners, helping to sustain and improve the health and vitality of America's forests and contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation. These new markets, as well as the associated growth in forestry innovation and technology, will require a trained and skilled workforce to meet increasing jobs across the forestry and conservation sectors.
- **Maintain and Expand Forest Cover:** More forests equate to more carbon being sequestered and stored. This is why the foundation for forest carbon mitigation is to maintain the forest cover that we have and reestablish forest cover in the appropriate places where it has been lost. Private landowners also need federal tax provisions that support maintaining, restoring, and expanding forest cover and associated forest carbon benefits.
- **Improve and Incentivize Forest Practices for Carbon, Adaptation, and Resilience:** U.S. forests offer cost-effective opportunities to increase carbon sequestration and storage. We can only realize this potential if we establish policies that recognize the climate benefits of forests and incentivize actions that keep forests healthy and resilient.
- **Expand Climate Data and Applied Science:** Successful forest climate mitigation and adaptation requires current and credible scientific information and tools to be delivered to the right users and decision makers. Providing authoritative, transparent, high-integrity data and USDA approved

methodologies demonstrating the carbon performance of forests and wood products is critical to their effectiveness as natural climate solutions.

As you work this session to help strengthen our rural communities, provide the American economy with the food and fiber it needs, and work to sustain the environment and combat climate change, we urge you to look to America's public and private forests as a solution. A robust network of forest sector coalitions, including the Forest-Climate Working Group, stands ready to help amplify the potential of America's forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Whitacre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Whitacre  
Executive Director

Attachment