



Forest  
LANDOWNERS

Promoting Private Forests

April 18, 2017

George Sifakis  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Stephen Munisteri  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Buy America Timber in Infrastructure Package

Dear Mr. Sifakis and Mr. Munisteri,

On behalf of the Forest Landowners Association (FLA), thank you for taking time on March 28, 2017 to discuss a critical issue related to the markets in which family forest landowners operate.

FLA represents America's family forest landowners. Collectively, these family forest landowners are the primary source of America's wood fiber, significantly contribute to rural economies, and enhance the environment. These multi-generation family forests owners are proud to play an essential role in fueling rural economics and providing the filtration infrastructure for the nation's clean water and clean air along with providing habitat that spurred the nation's miraculous wildlife recovery. However, their ability to provide economic and conservation benefits is at risk if owning and managing forestland is not economically viable.

We agree with the Administration that our nation's infrastructure is in dire need of an infusion of taxpayer and private funds to modernize and ensure public safety of the nation's roads, airports, bridges, and tunnels. We applaud the preference for using American-made products for the building of this infrastructure. We urge the White House to include American-grown timber products on the list of Buy America products in its proposed infrastructure package.

FLA understands that increased infrastructure spending in areas such as roads, bridges, airports, pipelines, water transportation, schools, and rail ultimately will result in increased consumption of wood products, which in turn will ripple through the wood products value chain. This means wood and paper mills (primary and secondary manufacturing) along with logging and landowners (resource development and extraction) will benefit as well. The infrastructure plan will also boost consumer incomes through the additional jobs created, stimulating wood product demand for consumer products such as housing and furniture.



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To provide the White House with an economic analysis of the timber industry, FLA has commissioned a national and state-level impact study that will detail the economic boost to the wood products value chain, its employees, and the broader economy as result of a Buy America timber policy. We expect to be able to provide you with the results of the economic study in three to four weeks.

Thank you for your consideration of including American-grown timber products on the list of Buy America products in its proposed infrastructure package. Should you have questions or need additional information, you can contact me directly at 404-394-4722 or by email at [sjones@forestlandowners.com](mailto:sjones@forestlandowners.com).

Sincerely,



Scott Jones  
CEO  
Forest Landowners Association