



April 4, 2018

Mr. Larry Kudlow  
 Director, National Economic Council  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Kudlow,

I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment as President Trump's Director of the National Economic Council. As a fourth-generation forest landowner, I am encouraged to have a president who understands the importance of strengthening the American business community.

Having served as president of the Georgia Forestry Association, the Forest Landowners Association and currently the president of the Forest Landowner Foundation I have devoted a significant amount of time and resources toward working on policies that support and promote US forest landowners and the businesses that use our products. On behalf of all 11,000,000+ private forestland owners in the United States, I would like to encourage you to consider the value in requiring US grown timber and forest products be used in any federally funded project, if available.

The state of Georgia already requires state-funded projects use Georgia grown and manufactured wood. As forest landowners, we are frequently confronted by a range of catastrophic events that could damage or destroy our timber before it reaches maturity. No other business of which I am aware, requires this type of long-term commitment. In fact, some types of timber take upwards of 80 years to grow to maturity. In addition, we pay billions of dollars in state, local and federal taxes that support public schools, hospitals, emergency services as well as all the services of our federal government. The leadership displayed by the Trump Administration regarding the rebuilding of our nation's infrastructure has provided a generational opportunity to rebuild and modernize the backbone of the American economy. As you examine the state of our economy, I

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encourage you to think about expanding the concept of "buy America" to include the use of US wood products in all federally funded projects including infrastructure projects. The use of US wood will help revitalize rural communities and economies, like those in my home state of Georgia.

US forest landowners, who play a critical role in supplying the nation's timber requirements, will benefit significantly from a federal infrastructure bill because of the depth to which the wood products value chain extends. A recent study on the wood products value chain found that by 2020, a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would create an additional 19,000 jobs in the woods product sub-sector and 4400 jobs in the forestry and logging sub-sectors. Furthermore, a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would lead to the forestry and logging sub-sectors experiencing increases in sales output of approximately \$500 million in 2020.

As US forest landowners and taxpayers, it is our hope that when our government purchases wood products for federally funded projects, that these wood products come from US grown and manufactured wood. The Administration's commitment to rebuilding our nation's infrastructure combined with the requirement to use US wood in not only infrastructure projects but all federal projects, can serve as a mechanism to revitalize rural communities and establish a platform for economic prosperity.

I wish you the best of luck in your new role as Director of the National Economic Council. The chief economic adviser to the president is a unique role, and I know you are the best man for the job!

Sincerely,

Joe Hopkins  
President  
Forest Landowner Foundation

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