



Forest
Landowners

FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION



Disaster Reforestation Act Support

Support by State

Alabama

"The economic impact of the forestry sector in Alabama is critically reliant on forest landowners' ability to supply timber to our mills; especially here in Rural Southwest Alabama. Congresswoman Sewell has proven time and time again that she understands the needs of her forestry constituents. The City of Thomasville sincerely appreciates her leadership in championing the Disaster Reforestation Act." – **Sheldon Day, Mayor of Thomasville, AL**

"This legislation is key in helping family forest owners recover after natural disasters and keeping Alabama's forests as forests. This will ensure the forest products consuming mills have trees in the future to maintain local economies. It will also ensure these forests, some of which are the most biologically diverse in the country, can continue sequestering carbon, supporting at-risk species, providing the clean water supply, and recreation for Gulf communities." – **Gray Skipper, Alabama Landowner and VP of Scotch Plywood Company**

"Alabama's 23 million acres of healthy forests supply the raw material for the state's \$28 billion forest industry that creates jobs for 123,000 Alabama workers. The investment required by forest landowners over the decades from planting to harvest is at constant risk from natural disasters. Under the current tax code, when disaster strikes landowners lose twice. They lose their timber and they lose the ability to deduct the value of the timber damaged. We are grateful that Congresswoman Sewell recognizes this inequity and applaud her for taking a leadership role in helping landowners and their local communities recover." – **Chris Isaacson, President & CEO of Alabama Forestry Association**

Florida

"Hurricane Michael illustrated how devastating natural disasters can be to Florida's forest landowners, the consuming mills that rely on them, and the local economies that depend on the forest supply chain. The Disaster Reforestation Act gives forest owners the security of knowing their investments will not be a complete loss when a natural disaster strikes. In

doing so, it offers greater security to the entire forest supply chain and to the future of Florida forestry as well." – **Alan Shelby, Executive Vice President, Florida Forestry Association**

Georgia

"Since day one in office, Rep. Carter has been a champion of forest landowner issues. Working and meeting with forest landowners on the ground and witnessing the tremendous losses they incurred with fire and other catastrophic events, he introduced the initial legislation to fix the limitation on casualty losses of timber in the tax code. He has demonstrated incredible commitment towards achieving this goal." – **Joe Hopkins, fourth-generation forest landowner, Folkston, GA**

"We applaud Congressman Carter's leadership on behalf of working forests by introducing the Disaster Reforestation Act. Recent major disasters have made clear that we need a permanent, lasting solution in law to provide timberland owners with the resources they need to bounce back after disaster strikes. This solution is not only vital to keep the forest economy healthy but allow all 10 million Georgians to benefit from clean air, clean water, recreation, and the myriad of other ecological benefits our working forests provide us all." – **Georgia Forestry Association**

Iowa

"Forest landowners represent the roots of America. They are hard-working, diligent stewards of their forests and need more support of all kinds—from funding to help replant after disasters to ongoing management assistance. The August 10, 2020, derecho left huge swaths of woodlands uprooted and ruined, and families literally in tears over their losses. The Forest Recovery Act is essential to our future." – **Shannon Ramsay, President of Trees Forever and Co-chair of the Coalition for Iowa's Trees and Forests**

"The August 10th, 2021, derecho that struck Iowa had winds that peaked around 140-miles an hour — the equivalent of a category-4 hurricane — and it caused at least \$13 billion damage, most of it in Iowa. A tremendous portion of the tree canopies was destroyed and it will take 75 - 100 years of restoration to bring it back to landowners." – **Russ Glime, Iowa Woodland Owners Association**

Louisiana

"Natural disasters create havoc on forest resources but more importantly on the lives of people who manage them. Often when disasters hit it is financially overwhelming for a landowner to get back on their feet and begin the recovery process. The Disaster Reforestation Act offers a helping hand to the landowner to get their land back into production as quickly as possible. The Louisiana Forestry Association supports this effort

on behalf of all forest landowners throughout Louisiana and the nation.” – **C.A. “Buck” Vandersteen, Louisiana Forestry Association**

Mississippi

“We as a nation expect a lot from private forest landowners while rarely compensating them. From producing oxygen, sequestering carbon dioxide, providing wildlife habitat and recreation, producing climate-friendly building products, to filtering drinking water, the benefits forests provide society are endless. With almost any disaster in the nation, we step up and help our fellow Americans – unless they are private forest owners. The least we can do is allow them to deduct the fair market value of their timber after a catastrophic disaster occurs.” – **James L. Cummins, Executive Director, Wildlife Mississippi**

Pennsylvania

“Forest landowners are unique in that the resource that grows on our land takes years to develop. While farmers and ranchers benefit from the diversity of their cropping systems and a myriad of ways to generate revenue for their operations, forestland owners invest in their property for years before income is realized. Over 750,000 Pennsylvania forest owners stand to directly benefit from passing of this legislation and the millions of Pennsylvanians who live in the Keystone State (from loggers to sawmillers to retail/wholesale lumber dealers to builders to homeowners) who are economically dependent on the forest products industry will indirectly benefit. The Pennsylvania Forestry Association is proud to support the Disaster Reforestation Act!” – **Mark Ott, President of Pennsylvania Forestry Association**

South Carolina

"Since 2014 forest landowners in South Carolina have suffered multi-million-dollar losses due to ice storms, flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires. Natural disasters are a major threat to the state's wood and paper products industry. The Forestry Association of South Carolina strongly endorses the Disaster Reforestation Act. Forest landowners supply the timber to the wood and paper products industry which employs more than 98,000 people and has an annual economic impact of \$21 Billion in South Carolina." - **Cam Crawford, President, Forestry Association of South Carolina**

Washington

“We applaud the bipartisan effort of lawmakers to support forest owners after a disaster with the Disaster Reforestation Act. Planting, growing and harvesting a forest often takes a generation and ensuring that landowners can recover their working forest is essential, for jobs, the economy and the wildlife and carbon benefits that growing and harvesting trees provides to us all.” – **Washington Forest Protection Association**

National/Regional Support

“America’s forest landowners have been waiting for this vital fix in the tax code and are appreciative of Representative Sewell and Carter’s efforts to introduce the Disaster Reforestation Act. The legislation will not only help timber owners recover from natural disasters but will stimulate rural economies and support our nation’s domestic timber supply.” – **Scott Jones, CEO, Forest Landowners Association**

“For too long, forest landowners have had to deal with unnecessary tax challenges in the wake of natural disasters, so we applaud the bipartisan regional leadership of Representatives Sewell and Carter on the Disaster Reforestation Act. This vital legislation would let private forest owners deduct pre-disaster timber values and make disaster recovery more achievable – a game-changer for the South, where 86% of forests are privately owned and hurricanes, tornados, floods, wildfires and other natural disasters are pervasive. By helping forest owners retain and replant their forests more efficiently, we protect critical benefits to communities, the environment and our economy.” – **Scott Phillips, Chair of the Southern Group of State Foresters**

“There are more than 20 million families and individuals who own and care for the largest portion of U.S. forests, providing all Americans with wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and wood supplies. Unfortunately, family forest owners do not have access to affordable insurance like most farmers and are faced with significant economic loss after disasters like hurricanes and wildfires. We applaud Congresswoman Sewell and Congressman Carter for addressing these important issues for family forest owners with the introduction of the Disaster Reforestation Act.” - **American Forest Foundation**

“The Disaster Reforestation Act will help America’s forest landowners recover from timber losses caused by natural disasters. Amending the tax code to allow forest owners to deduct the value of their timber prior to a loss from a natural disaster will allow them to keep their forests and woodlands economically viable and therefore maintain their environmental and social benefits for all Americans.” – **Joe Fox, President of National Association of State Foresters**

“Natural disasters are an ever-present and growing threat to the long-term investments made by forest landowners—investments which benefit all Americans by contributing significantly to our economic wellbeing and providing valuable and necessary ecosystem services and products for rural and urban communities alike. SAF is proud to support the Disaster Reforestation Act, which calls for a common-sense and equitable revision to the tax code to help give forest landowners more certainty and incentivize keeping forests as forests.” – **Danielle Watson, Director, Policy & Public Affairs at Society of American Foresters**

“Family timber businesses can be utterly wiped out by a natural disaster event, creating a ripple effect through both the economy and the environment. Please help ensure that families and individuals in the timber/forestry business can have a fighting chance by deducting fair market value of timber for a casualty loss event.” - **Wade McDonald, F&W Forestry Services**

“America’s private forestlands are vital to rural, national, and global economies through their provision of jobs and local businesses, renewable natural resources, and ecological services. This bill would help forest owners maintain forests as forests and continue to provide jobs in underserved communities; to produce sustainable building products and household goods; and to support renewable energy, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration.” – **Association of Consulting Foresters**

“We applaud Representatives Sewell and Carter for introducing the Disaster Reforestation Act, a bipartisan bill that will support forest health and resilience in the face of a changing climate. This bill provides support to forest owners following a disaster to help keep working forests working and continuing to provide clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and good paying jobs in rural communities. We look forward to working with Representatives Sewell and Carter and their House colleagues to further advance opportunities for private working forests.” - **The National Alliance of Forest Owners**