

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman,

The undersigned organizations write to you today in support of the bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators Mike Braun (R-IN), Chris Coons (D-DE), Todd Young (R-IA), and Angus King (I-ME)—the Trillion Trees and Natural Carbon Storage Act of 2023—and including this legislation in the 2023 Farm Bill.

America's trees and forests are a strategic national resource with vast potential as solutions for climate change, public health, and economic challenges. This bill would establish forestry policies that facilitate reforestation, conservation, international cooperation, and other ecologically sound management practices that reduce atmospheric carbon, and encourage the sustainable management, restoration, and conservation of global forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coastal habitats we all cherish.

Most (nearly two-thirds) of America's forests are privately owned. These private landowners need economic incentives to retain ownership of their forestland, as well as professional expertise to effectively manage their forests. This bill would create a federal loan and bond guarantee program, providing the requisite access to established environmental marketplaces where forestland owners can financially benefit from credits they produce. Voluntary markets for forest carbon offsets are one of these essential tools and should be incorporated into any and all climate change solutions proposed by Congress.

Additionally, this bill would allow the United States to take a leadership role in supporting the global One Trillion Trees Initiative's efforts to store carbon, promote biodiversity, and end deforestation at home and abroad.

Thank you for considering this important legislation as you work to draft the next Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

American Conservation Coalition
American Forest Foundation
Bipartisan Policy Center

Environmental Defense Fund
National Association of State Foresters
National Audubon Society