

## The Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Support Act of 2023

*Introduced by Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA-08) and Rep. John Duarte (R-CA-13), this legislation moves to codify the Forest Service's National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources (RNGR) Program.*

**Problem:** Forestry stakeholders identified a need to strengthen the reforestation pipeline (seed, nursery capacity, workforce, etc.) and coordination across landowners to support forest conservation goals amidst threats from catastrophic wildfire, drought, insects and disease, and land use conversion.

**Solution:** Direct and enable the USFS to convene and activate land managers (public and private) and researchers to provide critical technical and financial assistance to nurseries and other key actors.

**Background:** The RNGR program was created internally by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to provide support to State, industrial, and private forest and conservation nurseries throughout the country. **RNGR currently plays a big role in addressing increased nursery demand for information about and implementation of native species in restoration, reforestation, and conservation projects across the country.** Their work helps promote larger goals of better air and water quality, increased timber production, and sustainability in our nation's forests.

Complimenting and leveraging the transformational passage of the [REPLANT Act](#) through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, **the RNGR Support Act of 2023 would formally authorize the RNGR program, providing it with its own budget line item and funding.** This would help the program to focus on technical assistance to nurseries, research projects, and providing online resources — key priorities for foresters in the upcoming Farm Bill.

### The bill includes provisions to:

- Establish dedicated, full-time staff for RNGR to expand capacity and impact;
- Expand technical assistance and workforce development training to address specialized staff shortages across nursery and seed collection activities;
  - Including technology transfer, delivery of technical assistance, and creation of publicly accessible educational resources that distill the expertise housed in RNGR, acting as a hub for tree nursery, seed, planting, and genetic information;
- Create opportunities for State, Tribal, and private nurseries to apply for infrastructure improvement / expansion grants;
- Allow RNGR to serve as a convener of nursery, tree improvement, and tree planting interests nationwide with an emphasis on climate change mitigation, resilience, and adaptation.

**By codifying the RNGR program, we make a critical commitment to the work of nurseries in supporting the health and long-term productivity of our forests facing increasing threats from catastrophic wildfire, drought, and insects and disease.**

*For questions, contact Jim Beck from Rep. Schrier's office at [jim.beck@mail.house.gov](mailto:jim.beck@mail.house.gov).*