

October 8, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Hart Senate Office Building
120 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Braun
Russell Senate Office Building
2 Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow and Senator Braun,

The undersigned organizations are writing to offer our sincere thanks for your leadership in introducing S. 4451, the Rural Forests Markets Act. Together, we represent organizations with diverse backgrounds in forest and forest products, large and small private forest owners, conservation and wildlife groups, landowners, academics, and carbon finance experts, all proud to produce and support natural climate solutions from our forests and forest products.

Even though our interests are diverse, the Rural Forests Markets Act benefits us all. For example, this bill will help unlock capital investment that will allow America's family forest owners to participate in markets for carbon and other values. This bill will not just benefit family forest owners, but will also support a diverse set of private forest owners seeking to participate in market opportunities that have high up front costs but an abundance of environmental and economic benefits especially in rural areas.

Most importantly, we urge you to add the Rural Forests Markets Act to any year end package moving through Congress to help stimulate rural economies by opening carbon and other markets, bringing billions from the private sector and generating additional landowner income from their land.

Once again, we appreciate your dedication in ensuring investment to rural forested communities is leveraged and access to carbon and other environmental markets are available to amplify our conservation efforts.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy
American Forest Foundation
American Forests
American Wood Council
Arkansas Forestry Association
Arkansas Tree Farm Program
Domtar
Finite Carbon
Florida Wildlife Federation
Hardwood Federation
Idaho Forest Group
Land Trust Alliance
Michigan State University, Department of Forestry
Mississippi Tree Farm Program

National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of State Foresters
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Woodland Owners Associations
Oregon Tree Farm Program
RenewWest
Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
Society of American Foresters
The Lyme Timber Company
The Nature Conservancy
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Washington Tree Farm Program
Western Landowners Alliance
WestRock