

Chairman Mick Simpson
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2002 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Jeff Merkley
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Chellie Pingree
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2002 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S. 128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

March 10, 2023

RE: FY 2024 Funding Request for the Forest Product Laboratory to Compile the Amount of Carbon Stored in Wood Products Annually

Dear Congressman Simpson, Congresswoman Pingree, Senator Merkley and Senator Murkowski:

We are writing on behalf of a group of wood products industry associations (list below) to request that the Forest Service's Forest Product Laboratory (FPL) allocate funds in FY2024 to research the annual carbon storing potential of wood products. The group of partnering associations, identified below, produce a wide variety of wood products, which have long service lives, sustainable end of life outcomes, and help address a changing climate by tying up carbon that could otherwise be released to the environment. While EPA annually makes broad estimates of the amount of carbon in wood products (under the aegis of the "land use change and forestry" subsection), the data is not attributed to any specific industries or product categories and is therefore not useful when considering, for example, how to enhance the use of low carbon building materials in the built environment.

FPL, in existence since 1910, specializes in researching wood products and their applications, and is therefore well suited to tackle a project of this kind. The project would task FPL to examine on a very granular level, broken down by discrete components of the larger wood products sector, the amount of carbon stored annually in wood products. This data compilation would create a baseline upon which annual updates could be made. Annual increases in the amount of carbon stored in wood products could then be measured, and their ability to mitigate a changing climate, quantified. Pasted in below is draft report language, which would support the allocation of funds for this project in FY 2024.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and would be happy to address any questions you may have regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dana Cole
Executive Director
Hardwood Federation

dana.cole@hardwoodfederation.com

Andy O'Hare
President
Composite Panel Association

aohare@cpamail.org

List of Participating Associations:

American Forest & Paper Association
American Wood Council
Composite Panel Association
Forest Resources Association
Hardwood Federation (see member list below)
National Association of State Foresters
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Society of American Foresters
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

Hardwood Federation Member Associations

Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group
American Hardwood Export Council
Appalachian Lumbermen's Club
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc.
Decorative Hardwoods Association
Empire State Forest Products Association
Hardwood Distributors Association
Hardwood Manufacturers Association
Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association
Kentucky Forest Industries Association
Lake States Lumber Association
Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association
Missouri Forest Products Association
National Hardwood Lumber Association
National Wood Flooring Association
National Woodland Owners Association
North Carolina Forestry Association
Northeastern Loggers Association
Ohio Forestry Association
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association
Penn-York Lumbermen's Club
Railway Tie Association

Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association
Southwestern Hardwood Manufacturers Club
Tennessee Forestry Association
Virginia Forest Products Association
West Virginia Forestry Association
Western Hardwood Association
Westside Hardwood Club
Wood Component Manufacturers Association

Proposed Report Language:

Forest Products Laboratory.--The Committee provides not less than the enacted level for the Forest Products Laboratory to continue research to advance wood markets, including research on the amount of carbon stored annually in wood products, evaluated by specific wood producing sectors, setting the stage for the completion of this carbon storage accounting on an annual basis. Efforts will also continue to focus on the environmental lifecycle benefits of wood products in the built environment, utilizing a "whole building" life cycle approach to quantify these benefits.