

**FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY
NATIONAL LABOR
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

International Unions:

International Association
of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers

United Brotherhood
of Carpenters and
Joiners of America

United Mine Workers
of America

Regional Affiliates:

Association of Western
Pulp and Paper Workers

Carpenters
Industrial Council

Woodworkers
District Lodge 1, IAM

Woodworkers
District Lodge 2, IAM

National Associations:

American Forest
& Paper Association

Regional Associations:

American Forest
Research Council

Arkansas
Forestry Association

California
Forestry Association

Intermountain
Forest Association

Louisiana
Forestry Association

Minnesota
Forest Industries

Oregon Forest
Industries Council

**1111 19th Street, NW
10th Floor
Washington, DC 20036**

April 5, 2010

The Honorable James P. Moran, Chairman
The Honorable Michael Simpson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
B308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Simpson:

On behalf of the Forest Products National Labor Management Committee, I urge you to consider increasing the U.S Forest Service budget for F.Y. 2011 by \$151 million to support the forest products program. According to several economic models, this modest increase would result in more than 17,600 new jobs.

Increasing the timber harvest on our National Forests is a very efficient way to create additional rural jobs. The infrastructure is already in place. Mills can be reopened, additional workers can be hired to staff existing shifts, and additional shifts can be created quickly. Every additional one million board feet of timber harvested results in 11.4 new direct and indirect jobs with an average wage of \$42,300. These are good, sustainable jobs that people want.

It is important to point out that this proposal will improve our National Forests, helping the environment. Our forests have been neglected for too long and need to be better managed. Our nation's forest products industry has suffered a steep decline, while our forests are under extreme stress from drought, insects, diseases, wildfire and poor management. The proposed increase is well within the cumulative Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ). The ability to restore the health of our forests is dependent on a healthy forest products industry which serves as a good steward of our forest resource.

The attached charts clearly demonstrate the positive benefits that will come from funding a strong national forest system timber restoration program.

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I hope I can count on your support for improving forest health through responsible management and in creating a significant number of new jobs. Thank you.

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Sincerely,



**Mike Draper, Chairman
Forest Products National Labor Management Committee**