



September 17, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) supports H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act, as amended by the House Natural Resources Committee.

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. AF&PA member companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's sustainability initiative - [Better Practices, Better Planet 2020](#). The forest products industry accounts for approximately 4.5 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures approximately \$200 billion in products annually, and employs nearly 900,000 men and women. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states.

As the national trade association of the forest products industry, we are concerned that active management of our forests has been hindered by persistent regulatory and legal barriers. These barriers have endangered the health and well-being of our national forests, caused a decline in timber production costing thousands of jobs, and deprived rural counties of revenue needed to fund teachers, schools, and roads. The USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management needs the flexibility to take action to restore federal timber harvests to help ensure adequate fiber supply and address forest health priorities on federal lands.

H.R. 1526, the Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act, reaffirms and revitalizes a century-old commitment the federal government made to the nation. The bill allows for greater local involvement in forest management and requires the U.S. Forest Service to produce at least half of the sustainable yield of timber each year. Importantly, it reestablishes the priority of actively managing our forests by streamlining

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regulatory compliance and facilitating the active forest management that is necessary to improve forest health and reduce the costly epidemic of wildfire our forests have been experiencing.

We thank you for your work in bringing H.R. 1526 to the full House, and your work to restore and maintain the health of our federal forests through active forest management.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Harman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna A. Harman  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Speaker John Boehner, United States House of Representatives  
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, United States House of Representatives