



**National Association of Home Builders**

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**Government Affairs**

James W. Tobin III  
Senior Vice President & Chief Lobbyist

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express NAHB's strong support for *The Resilient National Forests Act of 2017* and express our appreciation to the House Committee on Natural Resources for continuing this important discussion on the health of our nation's forest. Better forest management practices that are also mindful of environmental considerations will help strengthen the housing supply chain and promote affordable housing opportunities for all Americans.

Significant concerns have been raised about the U.S. Forest Service's current forest management efforts, both in terms of administrative obstacles and legal obstacles in approving timber harvesting projects. Consequently, less commercial harvesting of timber has resulted in overgrown forests and an increased risk of catastrophic wildfire across the country.

Additional commercial harvesting of timber will promote the health of our nation's forest system, but also positively impact housing affordability. NAHB research shows lumber and wood products account for 15% of the cost of construction for a single family house. Lumber prices are generally volatile, and it is common for builders to encounter a large price swing in a short period of time. As additional supply is brought into the market, upward pressure on lumber prices will soften.

NAHB urges the House Natural Resources Committee to support *The Resilient National Forests Act of 2017*, which will encourage multi-use forest management practices for national forests and provide increases in the supply of federal timber products.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Tobin III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Tobin III

Cc: All members of the House Natural Resources Committee