

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

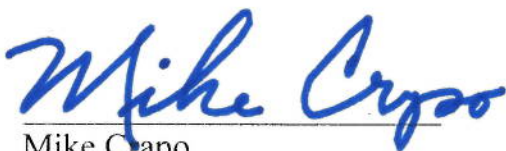
We write to express our strong support for the inclusion of S. 538, the Timber Innovation Act (TIA), in the forthcoming 2018 Farm Bill. As you are aware, this bill enjoys a strong base of bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress.

The steps taken by S. 538 to promote the application of mass-timber technologies will assist the U.S. Forest Service in achieving their mandate of maintaining healthy, sustainable forest production for years to come. By expanding the research and development of mass timber technologies and applications, the TIA presents Congress with the opportunity to support the deployment of a proven-safe, domestic renewable resource. Passage of this important legislation will drive innovation in engineering as well as provide rural economies with a new market and the tools necessary to achieve long-term prosperity.

Importantly, use of mass-timber technologies does not sacrifice building safety or structural integrity. Mass timber has been used safely in Europe, Australia and Canada for many years and is fully aligned with International Code Council's model building code for up to six stories in the United States since 2015, with recommendations under review for buildings as tall as 18 stories by the end of the decade.

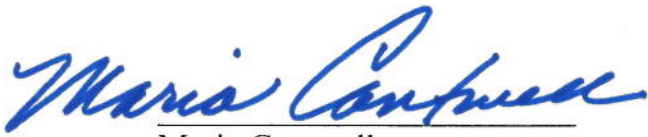
We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request and hard work on behalf of agriculture across the United States. The 2018 Farm Bill has the opportunity to be landmark legislation for America's forests and forest products industry, and we look forward to working with you on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator




Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

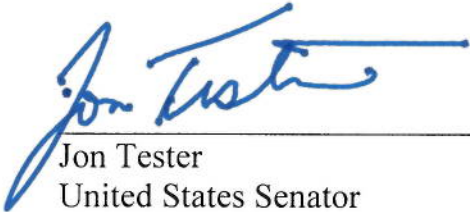
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

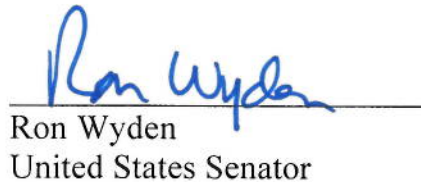
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator