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119TH CONGRESS
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H. R. 11072

To expand research relating to the use of forest products, to support research and technologies of the Forest Service, and to establish a mass timber science and education program to respond to the emerging research needs of architects, developers, and the forest products industry.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To expand research relating to the use of forest products, to support research and technologies of the Forest Service, and to establish a mass timber science and education program to respond to the emerging research needs of architects, developers, and the forest products industry.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Forest Bioeconomy Act''.

SEC. 2. BIOECONOMY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

(a) FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall expand research relating to the use of wood—

(1) to facilitate the establishment of new markets, including nontraditional markets, for material produced from forest management projects that typically has little or no commercial value;

(2) to increase the economic viability of manufacturing products using material described in paragraph (1); and

(3) as a feedstock for the production of renewable fuel, including sustainable aviation fuel.

(b) OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Forest Service an Office of Technology Transfer (referred to this subsection as the ''Office'').

(2) MISSION.—The mission of the Office shall be—

(A) to expand the commercial impact of the research investments of the Forest Service; and

(B) to provide for the commercialization of technologies that support the mission of the Forest Service.

(3) CHIEF COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed by an officer, who shall—

(i) be known as the ''Chief Commercialization Officer''; and

(ii) report to the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed to the position of Chief Commercialization Officer shall be an individual who, by reason of professional background and experience, is specially qualified to advise the Chief of the Forest Service and the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development on technology transfer at the Forest Service.

(C) DUTIES.—The Chief Commercialization Officer shall—

(i) oversee the expenditure of funds allocated for technology transfer within the Forest Service;

(ii) represent the Forest Service on—

(I) the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer established by section 11(e) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(e)); and

(II) other similar interagency coordinating entities;

(iii) coordinate with—

(I) other technology transfer and commercialization offices within the Department of Agriculture; and

(II) other similar Federal entities, as appropriate;

(iv) oversee efforts to engage with private sector entities, including venture capital companies, on issues relating to technology transfer and commercialization; and

(v) coordinate efforts to patent or otherwise protect under title 35, United States Code, any inventions arising from a Forest Service laboratory.

(4) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKING GROUP.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Forest Service a Tech-

nology Transfer Working Group, which shall consist of—

(i) the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development;

(ii) the Chief Commercialization Officer appointed under paragraph (3);

(iii) representatives from each research station within the Forest Service; and

(iv) representatives from other Forest Service entities with relevant expertise, as appropriate.

(B) DUTIES.—The Technology Transfer Working Group established under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) assist with the coordination of technology transfer and commercialization opportunities occurring at Forest Service laboratories;

(ii) develop and disseminate guidance to researchers at Forest Service laboratories on technology transfer and commercialization requirements under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) and associ-

ated agreements to implement those requirements; and

(iii) develop and disseminate to the public and prospective technology partners information about opportunities and procedures for technology transfer with the Forest Service.

(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Technology Transfer Working Group established under subparagraph (A) shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(i) the number of cooperative research and development agreements entered into by the Forest Service under section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a) during the preceding 5 years;

(ii) the number of agreements with partnership intermediaries entered into by the Forest Service under section 23 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3715) during the preceding 5 years;

(iii) the number of licenses and other use authorizations issued by the Forest Service for patents held by the Forest Service during the preceding 5 years; and

(iv) recommendations for legislative, programmatic, or regulatory changes to support the mission of the Office.

(5) KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—Beginning with the first year after the report under paragraph (4)(C) is submitted, and each year thereafter, the President shall include in the budget of the United States Government submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code—

(A) the number of cooperative research and development agreements entered into by the Forest Service under section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a) during the preceding year;

(B) the number of agreements with partnership intermediaries entered into by the Forest Service under section 23 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3715) during the preceding year; and

(C) the number of licenses or other use authorizations issued by the Forest Service for patents held by the Forest Service during the preceding year.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection $5,000,000 for each fiscal year.

(c) NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES.—Section 402(b)(3) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j(b)(3)) is amended by striking ''cooperative forestry'' and inserting ''technology transfer, commercialization, cooperative forestry,''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall establish an innovation voucher pilot program to accelerate product development, demonstration, and commercialization in the forest products sector.

(2) VOUCHERS.—Under the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide vouchers to small business concerns (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) to be used at research facilities of the

Forest Service for research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, skills training and workforce development, or commercial application activities.

(3) COST SHARING.—

(A) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Secretary may require up to 20 percent of the cost of a voucher provided under paragraph (2) for a research or development activity that is of a basic or fundamental nature, at the discretion of the Secretary, to be provided by a non-Federal source.

(B) APPLIED RESEARCH.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall require not less than 20 percent of the cost of a voucher provided under paragraph (2) for a research or development activity that is not of a basic or fundamental nature, at the discretion of the Secretary, to be provided by a non-Federal source.

(C) DEMONSTRATION AND COMMERCIAL APPLICATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall require not less than 50 percent of the cost of a voucher provided under paragraph (2) for a demonstration

or commercial application activity to be provided by a non-Federal source.

(D) REDUCTION IN COST-SHARE.—The Secretary may reduce a non-Federal share required under subparagraph (B) or (C) if the Secretary determines the reduction to be necessary and appropriate, taking into account any technological risk relating to the activity.

(4) TERMINATION.—The authorities provided under this subsection (except for paragraph (5)) shall expire on September 30, 2031.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the termination of the pilot program under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the outcomes of the pilot program, including any recommendations to improve the pilot program.

SEC. 3. JOINT MASS TIMBER SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MASS TIMBER.—The term ''mass timber'' includes—

(A) cross-laminated timber;

(B) nail laminated timber;

(C) glue laminated timber;

(D) dowel laminated timber;

(E) laminated strand lumber; and

(F) laminated veneer lumber.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development.

(3) TALL WOOD BUILDING.—The term ''tall wood building'' means a building designed to be—

(A) constructed with mass timber; and

(B)(i) in the case of a residential building, more than 4 stories in height; or

(ii) in the case of a commercial building, more than 5 stories in height.

(b) MASS TIMBER SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a mass timber science and education program to respond to the emerging research needs of architects, real estate developers, and the forest products industry.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with research programs at colleges and universities in administering the mass timber science and education program established under subsection (b) to supplement the current research and educational efforts of colleges and universities.

(d) PURPOSES.—The mass timber science and education program established under subsection (b) shall have the following principal purposes:

(1) To provide practical research responsive to the needs of architects, real estate developers, and the forest products industry, including assessments of carbon impacts in the originating forests and the end use of mass timber in the built environment.

(2) To develop focused, strategic lines of new research responsive to the needs described in paragraph (1), including research relating to flammability and performance during a fire, structural characteristics, energy use and savings, acoustics, and slab construction composed of hybrid materials.

(3) To solicit competitive funding proposals from scientists selected through a rigorous peer-review process designed to ensure the best projects are funded.

(4) To disseminate research findings so that architects, real estate developers, and the forest products industry are aware of, understand, and can use the information to make sound decisions and implement projects.

(5) To develop and facilitate the voluntary adoption of a curriculum for building structures

using mass timber for use in schools of engineering and architecture that includes—

(A) structural design; and

(B) the possibilities, benefits, and limitations of using mass timber in construction.

(e) MASS TIMBER STRATEGY.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a strategy to carry out the mass timber science and education program established under subsection (b) that includes—

(1) an assessment of the current state of knowledge about mass timber and tall wood buildings;

(2) an integrated approach to improve knowledge sharing on the manufacturing and use of mass timber products;

(3) an approach for mass timber project monitoring and evaluation; and

(4) an approach for setting research priorities for the program.

(f) STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint a stakeholder advisory group of technical experts that consists, at a minimum, of—

(A) a Forest Service scientist;

(B) a researcher from a college or university;

(C) a representative of a trade association;

(D) an architect or real estate developer;

(E) a representative of an agency or unit of a local government that is responsible for the issuance of permits for building construction (commonly known as a ''local approving agency'');

(F) a representative of a forest products company; and

(G) a representative of a nongovernmental organization with experience—

(i) designing or constructing tall wood buildings; or

(ii) complying with or revising related building codes.

(2) DUTIES.—The stakeholder advisory group shall meet at least annually—

(A) to consider immediate and long-term science needs relating to the use of mass timber and the construction of tall wood buildings;

(B) to suggest to the Secretary appropriate topic areas, specific issues within those topic areas, and information transfer needs for which

the Secretary shall solicit proposals described in subsection (d)(3); and

(C) to assist the Secretary in drafting the strategy required under subsection (e).

(g) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From amounts appropriated for Forest Service research, excluding funding made available for the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, the Secretary may use not more than $4,000,000 to carry out the activities described in this section.

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