

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1380

To clarify research and development for wood products, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2017

Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SCHRA-
DER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. HARPER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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

A BILL

To clarify research and development for wood products, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Timber Innovation Act
5 of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) INNOVATIVE WOOD PRODUCT.—The term
 2 “innovative wood product” means a type of building
 3 component or system that uses large panelized wood
 4 construction, including mass timber.

5 (2) MASS TIMBER.—The term “mass timber”
 6 includes—

- 7 (A) cross-laminated timber;
- 8 (B) nail laminated timber;
- 9 (C) glue laminated timber;
- 10 (D) laminated strand lumber; and
- 11 (E) laminated veneer lumber.

12 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 13 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Re-
 14 search and Development deputy area and the State
 15 and Private Forestry deputy area of the Forest
 16 Service.

17 (4) TALL WOOD BUILDING.—The term “tall
 18 wood building” means a building designed to be—

- 19 (A) constructed with mass timber; and
- 20 (B) more than 85 feet in height.

21 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**
 22 **PROGRAM FOR WOOD BUILDING CONSTRUC-**
 23 **TION.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct per-
 25 formance-driven research and development, education, and

1 technical assistance for the purpose of facilitating the use
2 of innovative wood products in wood building construction
3 in the United States.

4 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
5 Secretary shall—

6 (1) after receipt of input and guidance from,
7 and collaboration with, the wood products industry,
8 conservation organizations, and institutions of high-
9 er education, conduct research and development,
10 education, and technical assistance at the Forest
11 Products Laboratory or through the State and Pri-
12 vate Forestry deputy area that meets measurable
13 performance goals for the achievement of the prior-
14 ities described in subsection (c); and

15 (2) after coordination and collaboration with
16 the wood products industry and conservation organi-
17 zations, make competitive grants to institutions of
18 higher education to conduct research and develop-
19 ment, education, and technical assistance that meets
20 measurable performance goals for the achievement
21 of the priorities described in subsection (c).

22 (c) PRIORITIES.—The research and development,
23 education, and technical assistance conducted under sub-
24 section (a) shall give priority to—

1 (1) ways to improve the commercialization of
2 innovative wood products;

3 (2) analyzing the safety of tall wood building
4 materials;

5 (3) calculations by the Forest Products Labora-
6 tory of the life cycle environmental footprint, from
7 extraction of raw materials through the manufac-
8 turing process, of tall wood building construction;

9 (4) analyzing methods to reduce the life cycle
10 environmental footprint of tall wood building con-
11 struction;

12 (5) analyzing the potential implications of the
13 use of innovative wood products in building con-
14 struction on wildlife; and

15 (6) one or more other research areas identified
16 by the Secretary, in consultation with conservation
17 organizations, institutions of higher education, and
18 the wood products industry.

19 (d) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent prac-
20 ticable, the measurable performance goals for the research
21 and development, education, and technical assistance con-
22 ducted under subsection (a) shall be achievable within a
23 5-year timeframe.

1 **SEC. 4. TALL WOOD BUILDING COMPETITION.**

2 Subject to availability of appropriations, not less fre-
3 quently than once during each fiscal year for the period
4 of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary shall
5 carry out a competition for a tall wood building design,
6 or other innovative wood product demonstration, in ac-
7 cordance with section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
8 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

9 **SEC. 5. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
12 ty” means—

13 (A) an individual;

14 (B) a public or private entity (including a
15 center of excellence that consists of one or more
16 partnerships between forestry, engineering, ar-
17 chitecture, or business schools at one or more
18 institutions of higher education); or

19 (C) a State, local, or tribal government.

20 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
22 Chief of the Forest Service.

23 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, in car-
24 rying out the wood innovation grant program of the Sec-
25 retary described in the notice of the Secretary entitled
26 “Request for Proposals: 2016 Wood Innovations Funding

1 Opportunity” (80 Fed. Reg. 63498 (October 20, 2015)),
2 may make a wood innovation grant to one or more eligible
3 entities each year for the purpose of advancing the use
4 of innovative wood products.

5 (c) INCENTIVIZING USE OF EXISTING MILLING CA-
6 PACITY.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities
7 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to
8 proposals that include the use or retrofitting (or both) of
9 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the
10 average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national
11 average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the
12 previous calendar year.

13 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of re-
14 ceiving a grant under subsection (b), an eligible entity
15 shall provide funds equal to the amount the eligible entity
16 receives under the grant, to be derived from non-Federal
17 sources.

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