



Sustainable Wood Buildings

Request

Cosponsor Rep. Bruce Westerman’s Trillion Trees Act—**H.R. 5859**. WMMA strongly supports this legislation as it encourages tree planting to help reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Equally important is the bill’s provisions that promote markets for green building materials like wood which sequester and store atmospheric carbon throughout their extended life.

Background

Over the past few years, the United States has seen an increase in wood construction, specifically deployment of so-called “mass timber.” This term is used to describe a category of engineered wood building products like cross laminated timber or CLT, which is gaining popularity in the U.S. after wide scale adoption in Europe. Starting with the T3 office building in Minneapolis, tall mass timber buildings began emerging across the United States, increasing demand for mass timber production and creating good paying jobs in primarily rural areas. Increased demand for this product is due to mass timber’s structural stability and fire, wind, and seismic resistance, as well as its aesthetic appeal making it an ideal alternative to traditional, carbon intensive building materials like concrete and steel.

Standing inventory (volume of growing stock) of hardwood and softwood in the U.S. grew by 49% between 1953 and 2006 during which time our country experienced an unprecedented housing boom. This data suggest that thriving markets for wood products promote reforestation. Increasing markets for mass timber products not only spur manufacturing jobs in rural communities, but provide private forest landowners a return on their investment and the ability to maintain their forest landholdings as working forests. As we know, trees sequester carbon as they grow, and once a tree is harvested and converted into a wood product, the sequestered carbon is stored for the life of that product. Trees are then replanted, repeating the never-ending carbon cycle. These carbon-sequestering abilities make mass timber the ultimate green building material.

WMMA applauds language in H.R. 5859 which authorizes a sustainable building tax credit for both the commercial and residential market designed to promote building materials that store carbon—**namely wood**.

About the WMMA

Founded in 1899, the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) is a professional trade association composed of more than 230 North American manufacturers of woodworking equipment, cutting tools and supplies whose purpose is to promote the interests of its members serving the woodworking industry. Members’ products are used in the production of furniture, cabinets, millwork and other wood products. Many members also serve the plastics, stone and non-ferrous metals markets. WMMA members’ equipment is sold worldwide. Learn more about the WMMA at www.WMMA.org.