



Farm Bill Conference Priorities

The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association appreciates the efforts of Congress to pass a bi-partisan farm bill that includes the below priorities of the lumber industry. **Please contact the House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff to express your support for the following provisions through Conference and the final farm bill:**

- **Inclusion of the Timber Innovation Act (TIA, HR 1380/S 538).** We support inclusion of the Senate farm bill language (Sections 8641, 8642 and 8643), which includes both the research and Wood Innovation Grant (WIG) provisions of TIA. Mass timber – or building with solid panels of wood engineered for strength through laminations of different layers – is the cutting edge of innovation in the forest products industry, enabling the construction of buildings up to 25 stories from a renewable source. Including the Research and Wood Innovation Grant sections of TIA will:
 - Provide direction to existing US Forest Service (USFS) programs and promote further research and technical assistance for the development of mass timber buildings.
 - Support the construction of mass timber products, and other innovative wood uses, to provide real world examples of how the technology works, such as the recently completed University of Arkansas library storage facility. Additional information, including safety tests and videos of how the technology works can be found at timberinnovation.org.
- **Recognition of all forest certification programs in federal procurement policy.** We support inclusion of language that is included in both the House and Senate bills that ensures that the USDA BioPreferred program, which provides a level playing field for wood products sourced from the three recognized forest certification standards in North America, is deferred to by all federal agencies.
 - No federal agencies or Federal Acquisition Regulations should prevent wood products certified from credible vendors such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] (SFI) or the American Tree Farm System[®] (ATFS), which are both widely used in the United States, from being eligible for federal purchasing.
 - In the Senate bill, this is the language in Section 9102 entitled “Requirement for Procuring Agencies,” and in the House bill, this is the language in Section 6402 entitled “Wood and Wood-Based Products.”