

Amendment offered by Rep. Andrea Salinas

Amendment description

The amendment would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in consultation with Tribes, State Foresters, and private sector partners, to establish a platform for measuring, monitoring, verifying and reporting data about the carbon impacts from forest management and wood products. The amendment would reduce the match requirement for the existing Wood Innovation Grant Program and direct that priority be given to proposed projects in communities with higher-than-average unemployment, that recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design, or report on the resilience and economic benefits of the proposal.

Further, the amendment would establish a Wood Building Accelerator Grant Program to fund programs that support the critical elements of designing and building with wood, including traditional wood products, mass timber and other advanced wood products. The amendment would also establish a Rural Infrastructure and Building Pilot Program to fund pilot programs that demonstrate the use of innovative wood products in the construction and renovation of rural infrastructure and building projects, such as affordable, modular housing.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MS. SALINAS OF OREGON

At the end of section 10105, add the following:

1 (e) FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA PROVI-
2 SION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
4 culture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
5 ice, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural
6 Resources Conservation Service and in consultation
7 with federally recognized Indian Tribes, State for-
8 esters, and private sector partners, shall establish a
9 platform to provide measurement, monitoring,
10 verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon
11 emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmos-
12 pheric impacts of forest management and wood
13 products.

14 (2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out paragraph
15 (1), the Secretary shall source data, information,
16 and data analysis from Department of Agriculture
17 programs, including—

18 (A) the Forest Inventory and Analysis pro-
19 gram;

20 (B) the Timber Products Output survey;

1 (C) Forest Service and Natural Resources
2 Conservation Service soil carbon estimations;

3 (D) Department of Agriculture entity-level
4 guidance;

5 (E) the Forest Products Laboratory;

6 (F) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment
7 Commons;

8 (G) Department of Agriculture entity level
9 guidelines; and

10 (H) other relevant programmatic data and
11 information sources, as they are published and
12 made available.

13 (3) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by
14 paragraph (1) shall provide tools that calculate—

15 (A) the above- and below-ground forest
16 carbon stocks and stock changes associated
17 with species composition, forest management
18 regime, and landowner types, including small
19 area estimations for regional and localized geog-
20 raphies across the United States, made avail-
21 able through Forest Inventory and Analysis up-
22 dates and annual reports;

23 (B) the embodied carbon involved in the
24 manufacture of products, using data from pub-
25 lished environmental product declarations and

1 life cycle assessments, updated as new and
2 more refined data becomes available;

3 (C) the long-term stored carbon in manu-
4 factured timber products; and

5 (D) the carbon displacement of wood prod-
6 ucts, compared to other materials, using substi-
7 tution factors.

8 (4) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent
9 practicable, the Secretary shall establish the plat-
10 form under paragraph (1) not later than 2 years
11 after the date of enactment of this Act.

12 (f) WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.—Section
13 8643 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7
14 U.S.C. 7655d) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (d), by inserting “50 percent
16 of” before “the amount”; and

17 (2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
20 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-
21 SESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible enti-
22 ties under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give pri-
23 ority to proposals for projects that—

24 “(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of
25 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in

1 which the average annual unemployment rate ex-
2 ceeded the national average unemployment rate by
3 more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

4 “(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction
5 strategies in building design, including forest im-
6 pacts, which can be improved or incentivized by
7 North American procurement; or

8 “(3) report on the connection between their
9 proposal and the resilience and economic benefits as-
10 sociated with wood products from anticipated wood
11 supply areas, including wildfire risk reduction, in-
12 creased fiber flow, forest or mill jobs, and support
13 for forested communities created because of forest
14 management.”.

15 (g) WOOD BUILDING EDUCATION ACCELERATOR
16 GRANT PROGRAM.—

17 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible
19 entity” means—

20 (i) an engineering, architecture, or de-
21 sign school at an institution of higher edu-
22 cation; or

23 (ii) a center of excellence that consists
24 of 1 or more partnerships between for-
25 estry, engineering, architecture, or busi-

1 ness schools at 1 or more institutions of
2 higher education.

3 (B) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
4 means the Secretary, acting through the Re-
5 search and Development deputy area and the
6 State, Private, and Tribal Forestry deputy area
7 of the Forest Service.

8 (2) GRANT PROGRAM.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
10 tablish a program, to be known as the “Wood
11 Building Education Accelerator Grant Pro-
12 gram”, to annually award grants to geographi-
13 cally diverse eligible entities to support the de-
14 velopment of curricula, programs, and best
15 practices relating to the critical elements of de-
16 signing and building with wood, including the
17 use of traditional wood products, mass timber,
18 and other advanced wood products.

19 (B) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to receive
20 a grant under this paragraph, an eligible entity
21 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such
22 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
23 formation as the Secretary may require.

24 (C) REVIEW AND AWARDS.—The Secretary
25 shall review proposals submitted under subpara-

1 graph (B), and award grants under this sub-
2 section, in consultation with nonprofit organiza-
3 tions, research organizations, or other private
4 entities providing funding to eligible entities to
5 support activities carried out using grants
6 under this subsection.

7 (3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition
8 of receiving a grant under paragraph (2)(A), an eli-
9 gible entity shall provide funds equal to the amount
10 received by the eligible entity under the grant, to be
11 derived from non-Federal sources.

12 (4) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total
13 amount of grants awarded under paragraph (2)(A)
14 shall be not more than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal
15 year.

16 (5) ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of
17 appropriations made in advance for such purposes,
18 the Secretary shall allocate to carry out this sub-
19 section not more than \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
20 years 2026 through 2030.

21 (h) RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDING PILOT
22 PROGRAM.—

23 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible
25 entity” means—

- 1 (i) a nonprofit organization;
2 (ii) a community-based organization;
3 (iii) a State, local, or municipal gov-
4 ernment;
5 (iv) a tribally designated housing au-
6 thority;
7 (v) a private entity, as determined by
8 the Secretary; and
9 (vi) a consortium of 2 or more entities
10 described in subparagraphs (A) through
11 (E).

12 (B) PRODUCED AND ASSEMBLED IN THE
13 UNITED STATES.—The term “produced and as-
14 sembled in the United States”, with regard to
15 wood materials, means that—

- 16 (i) the wood materials, if manufac-
17 tured, were manufactured entirely in the
18 United States; and
19 (ii) if the wood materials were pro-
20 duced, all production occurred entirely in
21 the United States.

22 (C) PUBLIC AGENCY.—The term “public
23 agency” means a department, agency, other
24 unit, or instrumentality of Federal, State, Trib-
25 al, or local government.

1 (D) RURAL.—The term “rural” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the
3 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
4 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

5 (E) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
6 means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
7 through the Under Secretary for Rural Devel-
8 opment, in consultation with the Under Sec-
9 retary for Natural Resources and Environment.
10 (2) GRANT PROGRAM.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
12 award grants to eligible entities to carry out
13 pilot projects to demonstrate the use of innova-
14 tive wood products, systems, and technologies,
15 such as mass timber, in the construction and
16 renovation of rural infrastructure and building
17 projects.

18 (B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
19 ceive a grant under this paragraph, an eligible
20 entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
21 tion at such time, in such manner, and con-
22 taining such information as the Secretary may
23 require.

1 (3) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot project
2 carried out using a grant received under paragraph
3 (2)(A) shall—

4 (A) be not longer than 5 years;

5 (B) include collaboration between 1 or
6 more eligible entities and 1 or more public
7 agencies;

8 (C) primarily use for construction mate-
9 rials wood products that are manufactured and
10 prefabricated offsite and assembled onsite as a
11 “kit-of-parts” or by assembling finished mod-
12 ules;

13 (D) to the extent practicable, use wood
14 materials that are produced and assembled in
15 the United States; and

16 (E) be located in or provide benefits to a
17 rural community that, to the extent practicable,
18 has a history in wood products manufacturing.

19 (4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition
20 of receiving a grant under paragraph (2)(A), an eli-
21 gible entity shall provide funds, to be derived from
22 non-Federal sources—

23 (A) except as provided in subparagraph

24 (B), equal to the amount received by the eligi-
25 ble entity under the grant; or

1 (B) in the case of a pilot project serving a
2 population of—

3 (i) less than 19,000 residents, equal
4 to 50 percent of the amount received by
5 the eligible entity under the grant; or

6 (ii) less than 2,500 residents, equal to
7 25 percent of the amount received by the
8 eligible entity under the grant.

9 (5) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total
10 amount of grants awarded under paragraph (2)(A)
11 shall be not more than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal
12 year.

13 (6) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall provide
14 for an independent evaluation of pilot projects car-
15 ried out under this subsection that includes—

16 (A) a summary of the activities conducted
17 under the pilot projects;

18 (B) an assessment of the effectiveness of
19 the project requirements described in paragraph
20 (3); and

21 (C) best practices regarding the use of
22 public-private partnerships for increased wood
23 utilization to benefit rural communities.

24 (7) ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of
25 appropriations made in advance for such purposes,

1 the Secretary shall allocate to carry out this sub-
2 section not more than \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
3 years 2026 through 2030.

