

Amendment offered by Congresswoman Andrea Salinas (OR-6)

Amendment description

The amendment would establish the 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; and establish the 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. Language taken from the Timber Innovation for Building Rural Communities Act.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY M. S. SALINAS OF OREGON

At the end of part III of subtitle D of title VIII, add
the following:

1 **SEC. 8435. WOOD BUILDING EDUCATION ACCELERATOR**

2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

4 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means—

6 (A) an engineering, architecture, or design
7 school at an institution of higher education; or

8 (B) a center of excellence that consists of
9 1 or more partnerships between forestry, engi-
10 neering, architecture, or business schools at 1
11 or more institutions of higher education.

12 (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Chief of
14 Research and Development of the Forest Service
15 and the Deputy Chief of State, Private, and Tribal
16 Forestry of the Forest Service.

17 (b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish
19 a program, to be known as the “Wood Building

1 Education Accelerator Grant Program”, to annually
2 award grants to geographically diverse eligible enti-
3 ties to support the development of curricula, pro-
4 grams, and best practices relating to the critical ele-
5 ments of designing and building with wood, includ-
6 ing the use of traditional wood products, mass tim-
7 ber, and other advanced wood products.

8 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to receive a
9 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
10 submit to the Secretary a proposal at such time, in
11 such manner, and containing such information as
12 the Secretary may require.

13 (3) REVIEW AND AWARDS.—The Secretary shall
14 review proposals submitted under paragraph (2),
15 and award grants under this subsection, in consulta-
16 tion with nonprofit organizations, research organiza-
17 tions, or other private entities providing funding to
18 eligible entities to support activities carried out
19 using grants under this section.

20 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of re-
21 ceiving a grant under subsection (b)(1), an eligible entity
22 shall provide funds equal to the amount received by the
23 eligible entity under the grant, to be derived from non-
24 Federal sources.

1 (d) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total amount of
2 grants awarded under subsection (b)(1) shall be not more
3 than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

4 (e) ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of ap-
5 propriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
6 retary shall allocate to carry out this section not more
7 than \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
8 2031.

9 **SEC. 8436. RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDING PILOT**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

14 (A) a nonprofit organization;

15 (B) a community-based organization;

16 (C) a State, local, or municipal govern-
17 ment;

18 (D) a tribally designated housing author-
19 ity;

20 (E) a private entity, as determined by the
21 Secretary; and

22 (F) a consortium of 2 or more entities de-
23 scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

24 (2) PRODUCED AND ASSEMBLED IN THE
25 UNITED STATES.—The term “produced and assem-

1 bled in the United States”, with regard to wood ma-
2 terials, means that—

3 (A) the wood materials, if manufactured,
4 were manufactured entirely in the United
5 States; and

6 (B) if the wood materials were produced,
7 all production occurred entirely in the United
8 States.

9 (3) PUBLIC AGENCY.—The term “public agen-
10 cy” means a department, agency, other unit, or in-
11 strumentality of Federal, State, Tribal, or local gov-
12 ernment.

13 (4) RURAL.—The term “rural” has the mean-
14 ing given the term in section 343(a) of the Consoli-
15 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1991(a)).

17 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary
19 for Rural Development, in consultation with the
20 Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Envi-
21 ronment.

22 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
24 grants to eligible entities to carry out pilot projects
25 to demonstrate the use of innovative wood products,

1 systems, and technologies, such as mass timber, in
2 the construction and renovation of rural infrastruc-
3 ture and building projects.

4 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
5 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
6 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
7 in such manner, and containing such information as
8 the Secretary may require.

9 (c) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot project car-
10 ried out using a grant received under subsection (b)(1)
11 shall—

12 (1) be not longer than 5 years;

13 (2) include collaboration between 1 or more eli-
14 gible entities and 1 or more public agencies;

15 (3) primarily use for construction materials
16 wood products that are manufactured and prefab-
17 ricated offsite and assembled onsite as a kit-of-parts
18 or by assembling finished modules;

19 (4) to the extent practicable, use wood mate-
20 rials that are produced and assembled in the United
21 States; and

22 (5) be located in or provide benefits to a rural
23 community that, to the extent practicable, has a his-
24 tory in wood products manufacturing.

1 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of re-
2 ceiving a grant under subsection (b)(1), an eligible entity
3 shall provide funds, to be derived from non-Federal
4 sources—

5 (1) except as provided in paragraph (2), equal
6 to the amount of the grant; or

7 (2) in the case of a pilot project serving a popu-
8 lation of—

9 (A) less than 19,000 residents, equal to 50
10 percent of the amount of the grant; or

11 (B) less than 2,500 residents, equal to 25
12 percent of the amount of the grant.

13 (e) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total amount of
14 grants awarded under subsection (b)(1) shall be not more
15 than \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year.

16 (f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall provide for an
17 independent evaluation of pilot projects carried out under
18 this section that includes—

19 (1) a summary of the activities conducted under
20 the pilot projects;

21 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
22 project requirements described in subsection (c); and

23 (3) best practices regarding the use of public-
24 private partnerships for increased wood utilization to
25 benefit rural communities.

1 (g) ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of ap-
2 ropriations made in advance for such purposes, the Sec-
3 retary shall allocate to carry out this section not more
4 than \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
5 2031.

