

Legislative Summary

Forest Products Fairness Act of 2012

Issue: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Biobased Markets Program (BioPreferred) was designed "to increase the purchase and use of biobased products." The program requires USDA to set up a voluntary label for biobased products, which allows producers to market their products as "USDA certified biobased." As currently designed and implemented by USDA, most forest products are excluded from both the federal procurement preference and the "USDA certified" label. As a result, the program preferences foreign-produced, imported materials, rather than U.S.-made forest products.

Forest Products Fairness Act of 2012:

- ❖ The Forest Products Fairness Act modifies the definition of "biobased product" – as defined in the Federal Farm Bill - to clarify that forest products should be included in the Biobased Markets Program if they meet the minimum biobased content requirements.
- ❖ The Forest Products Fairness Act would allow forest products to receive increased consumer attention with a USDA Certified Biobased label, as well as federal government procurement preference, offering producers more opportunities to increase consumer demand for environmentally-friendly wood products.
- ❖ The Forest Products Fairness Act would create a level playing field for domestically-produced wood products and imported products. One example of such an imported product is Chinese bamboo, which is already eligible for the biobased label and used as a "green" alternative for U.S. hardwood flooring or lumber.

Supporters of the Forest Products Fairness Act: American Forest & Paper Association; American Forest Foundation; American Forest Resource Council; American Wood Council; Anthony Forest Products Company; ArborGen, LLC; Boise Inc.; Florida Forestry Association; Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee; Georgia-Pacific LLC; Graphic Packaging Corporation; Hardwood Federation; International Paper Company; Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association; Louisiana Forestry Association; Louisiana-Pacific Corporation; National Alliance of Forest Owners; National Association of State Foresters; Oregon Forest Industries Council; Paper Recycling Coalition; Paperboard Packaging Council; Plum Creek; Resolute Forest Products; RockTenn; Society of American Foresters; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; Sustainable Forestry Initiative.