



# Rural Forest Markets Act

*U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) & Mike Braun (R-Ind.)*

The bipartisan Rural Forest Markets Act will remove barriers for small-scale, family foresters and help them benefit from new economic opportunities through climate solutions like carbon markets.

As companies increasingly express interest in offsetting their footprint through carbon and other environmental markets, foresters are tapping into those opportunities and being financially rewarded for the voluntary, sustainable steps they're taking in managing their land. However, small-scale and family-owned forests have faced barriers due to high upfront costs. These small, family-owned woodlands make up 36% of U.S. forests.

The bipartisan Rural Forest Markets Act provides a federal loan guarantee to support innovative projects that help small forest owners address the warming climate and other environmental challenges by adopting sustainable land management practices. Project developers are already using private capital to band together small foresters, provide expertise, and offset the upfront financial costs producers face in participating in these innovative marketplaces. By establishing a federal loan guarantee to back these private investments, new capital and forestry jobs will flow to rural communities and landowners, all while improving the environment and storing more carbon in our forests.

## **The Rural Forest Markets Act:**

- **Establishes the Rural Forest Market Investment Program** that offers guaranteed loans of up to \$150 million for nonprofits and companies to help small and family foresters create and sell forest credits for storing carbon or providing other environmental benefits.
- **Provides a climate solution** by encouraging forestland owners to adopt voluntary land management practices that draw carbon out of the air and store it in forests.
- **Creates new revenue streams for small-scale, family foresters** by making it possible to generate innovative credits they can sell in established markets.

- **Brings investment into rural communities** by reducing the financial risk to private investors who can contribute the upfront financing that makes these projects possible.

In addition to Senators Stabenow and Braun, the bill is co-sponsored by Senators Angus King (I-Maine) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.).

The bill is supported by The Nature Conservancy, American Forest Foundation, American Forests, National Woodland Owners Association, National Association of State Foresters, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Northland Forest Products, National Wild Turkey Federation, American Wood Council, Idaho Forest Group, Port Blakely, Domtar, Westrock, Ruffed Grouse Society, American Woodcock Society, American Forest and Paper Association, International Paper, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, The Lyme Timber Company, American Forest & Paper Association, Renew West, and the Society of American Foresters.