IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Stabenow (for herself, Mr. Crapo, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Risch, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Wicker, Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Collins, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Daines, Mr. King, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Tester) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To clarify research and development for wood products, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Timber Innovation Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INNOVATIVE WOOD PRODUCT.—The term “innovative wood product” means a type of building
component or system that uses large panelized wood construction, including mass timber.

(2) MASS TIMBER.—The term “mass timber” includes—

(A) cross-laminated timber;
(B) nail laminated timber;
(C) glue laminated timber;
(D) laminated strand lumber; and
(E) laminated veneer lumber.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Research and Development deputy area and the State and Private Forestry deputy area of the Forest Service.

(4) TALL WOOD BUILDING.—The term “tall wood building” means a building designed to be—

(A) constructed with mass timber; and
(B) more than 85 feet in height.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR WOOD BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct performance-driven research and development, education, and technical assistance for the purpose of facilitating the use
of innovative wood products in wood building construction in the United States.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) after receipt of input and guidance from, and collaboration with, the wood products industry, conservation organizations, and institutions of higher education, conduct research and development, education, and technical assistance at the Forest Products Laboratory or through the State and Private Forestry deputy area that meets measurable performance goals for the achievement of the priorities described in subsection (c); and

(2) after coordination and collaboration with the wood products industry and conservation organizations, make competitive grants to institutions of higher education to conduct research and development, education, and technical assistance that meets measurable performance goals for the achievement of the priorities described in subsection (c).

(c) PRIORITIES.—The research and development, education, and technical assistance conducted under subsection (a) shall give priority to—

(1) ways to improve the commercialization of innovative wood products;
(2) analyzing the safety of tall wood building materials;

(3) calculations by the Forest Products Laboratory of the life cycle environmental footprint, from extraction of raw materials through the manufacturing process, of tall wood building construction;

(4) analyzing methods to reduce the life cycle environmental footprint of tall wood building construction;

(5) analyzing the potential implications of the use of innovative wood products in building construction on wildlife; and

(6) 1 or more other research areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with conservation organizations, institutions of higher education, and the wood products industry.

(d) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent practicable, the measurable performance goals for the research and development, education, and technical assistance conducted under subsection (a) shall be achievable within a 5-year timeframe.

SEC. 4. TALL WOOD BUILDING COMPETITION.

Subject to availability of appropriations, not less frequently than once during each fiscal year for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2021, the Secretary shall
carry out a competition for a tall wood building design,
or other innovative wood product demonstration, in ac-
cordance with section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-

SEC. 5. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) Eligible entity.—The term “eligible enti-
y” means—

(A) an individual;

(B) a public or private entity (including a
center of excellence that consists of 1 or more
partnerships between forestry, engineering, ar-
chitecture, or business schools at 1 or more in-
stitutions of higher education); or

(C) a State, local, or tribal government.

(2) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, in car-
ying out the wood innovation grant program of the Sec-
retary described in the notice of the Secretary entitled
“Request for Proposals: 2016 Wood Innovations Funding
Opportunity” (80 Fed. Reg. 63498 (October 20, 2015)),
may make a wood innovation grant to 1 or more eligible
entities each year for the purpose of advancing the use of innovative wood products.

(c) Incentivizing Use of Existing Milling Capacity.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year.

(d) Matching Requirement.—As a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (b), an eligible entity shall provide funds equal to the amount the eligible entity receives under the grant, to be derived from non-Federal sources.