July 16, 2015

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen,

The undersigned members of the Forest-Climate Working Group are writing to commend your leadership through development of the Forest Incentives Program Act of 2015. The Forest-Climate Working Group represents a broad range of interests across the U.S. forest sector, including private landowners, forest products manufacturing, conservation non-profits, carbon interests, and state government. We seek to promote U.S. forests, including working forests and forest products as a powerful tool to capture carbon and provide essential climate mitigation benefits.

America’s forests currently sequester more than 13 percent of U.S. carbon emissions every year—representing one of the Earth’s most important net carbon sinks. However, data from the 2010 Resources Planning Assessment indicate that U.S. private forests, which provide the majority of forest carbon capture in the U.S., are at risk from development pressures and climate-driven stressors like fire, pests, and disease.

If enacted, the Forest Incentives Program would provide important tools to help keep forests as forests and grow the contribution of private forests and forest products to reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change. Your well designed program would fill an important niche in the suite of tools and incentive opportunities available to private forest owners, complementing other federal authorities.

We look forward to working with you further on this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Forests                        Plum Creek
American Forest Foundation             Potlatch
C2I, LLC                               Society of American Foresters
CarbonVerde                             Sonen Capital
Forest Guild                           The National Association of University
Green Diamond Resource Company          Forest Resources Programs
Hardwood Federation                    The Trust for Public Land
L&C Carbon LLC                         Washington Forest Protection Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners      Weyerhaeuser
Pinchot Institute