

Resolution No. 4

Date: 6/17/2017

City: Washington, DC

NAHB Resolution

Title: Forest Management Practices and Sustainable Lumber Supplies  
Sponsor: Federal Government Affairs Committee  
Submitted by: Justin MacDonald

WHEREAS, the members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) continue to face threats from restricted supplies of softwood lumber and increased lumber prices directly related to on-going trade disputes between the U.S. and Canada, specifically with respect to softwood lumber;

WHEREAS, increases in the price and availability of building materials, such as softwood lumber, can have a dramatic effect on the affordability of housing for many Americans;

WHEREAS, NAHB recognizes that lumber consumption in the U.S. far exceeds domestic production capabilities and that alternate sources of lumber need to be found, including from public forest land in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, years-long efforts to significantly restrict the timber harvest in our national forests has required increased imports of foreign lumber, primarily from Canada;

WHEREAS, NAHB members recognize the importance of forest management best practices and sound science to manage our national forests and ensure they are preserved as renewable resources;

WHEREAS, improper forest management practices are detrimental to the overall health of our national forests, do not contribute to managed use of the forests as renewable resources, and may negatively affect the health and safety of people living near them;

WHEREAS, NAHB recognizes that the federal government plays a primary role in managing, preserving, and promoting the responsible use of the national forests;

WHEREAS, NAHB recognizes the role of the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in managing the use of natural resources in the United States, and that the missions of these agencies may not be in line with best management practices and sound science in their efforts to maintain our national forests in a safe and responsible manner, resulting in detrimental impacts to the environment including increased pest infestation and damage from forest fires;

WHEREAS, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 sought to reduce the threat of destructive wildfires while upholding environmental standards through better land management;

WHEREAS, existing U.S. Forest Service management plans appear to contain adequate provisions to protect old-growth forest ecosystems;

WHEREAS, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (“Roadless Rule”) issued in 2001 mandates that the federal government take a one-size-fits-all approach to managing the 58.5 million acres of National Forest land, thereby usurping local input and undercutting the collaborative forest management planning process;

WHEREAS, nationwide, the reduced harvests resulting from the 2001 Roadless Rule have led to a loss of jobs, the erosion of local tax bases, and a decreasing market for housing in rural communities; and

WHEREAS the 2001 Roadless Rule has had a particularly negative impact on Alaska, devastating the economies of Ketchikan and the surrounding towns and villages, which are predominately dependent upon responsible resource development for their jobs, livelihood and economic health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAHB support responsible efforts before Congress, the Administration, the appropriate federal agencies, and in the Courts, to adopt prudent policies that ensure the public lands remain available as a renewable resource in a healthy and sustainable manner;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge Congress to enact legislation to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB work with stakeholders to promote forest management best practices and the use of sound science, to ensure that the health of the national forests improves and that the forests continue to be available for use as renewable resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB continue to coordinate with the various federal agencies charged with managing and overseeing the national forests to develop and maintain adequate timber sale volumes to meet domestic housing demands and sustainable yield goals.

*If approved, this resolution will supersede the following active policies: 2008.5 No. 8 Roadless Area Conservation Rule; 2004.10 No. 14 Roadless Area Conservation Rule; 2000.9 No. 13 Forest Management Practices; 1990.9 No. 23 Multi-Use Forest Management Policy*

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| Board of Directors Action:  | APPROVED            |
| Executive Board Action:   | Recommends Approval |
| Resolutions Committee Action:   | Recommends Approval |
| Single Family Builders Committee Action:  | Recommends Approval |
| Legal Action Committee Action:  | Recommends Approval |
| Construction Liability, Risk Management<br>& Building Materials Committee Action: | Recommends Approval |
| Environmental Issues Committee Action:  | Recommends Approval |
| Federal Governmental Affairs Committee Action:                                    | Recommends Approval |