



The REPLANT Act of 2021

*U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) & Rob Portman (R-Ohio)
U.S. Representatives Jimmy Panetta (CA-20) & Mike Simpson (ID-2)*

From destructive wildfires to invasive pests and disease, forests across the country are in desperate need of reforestation efforts. The Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding Necessary Trees (REPLANT) Act will help the U.S. Forest Service plant 1.2 billion trees and create nearly 49,000 jobs over the next ten years to address the growing backlog of nearly two million acres of national forestland in need of reforestation.

Congress created the Reforestation Trust Fund in 1980 to plant trees on national forests in the aftermath of natural disturbances such as wildfires. The fund is replenished by tariffs collected on wood products and is capped at \$30 million annually. The need for reforestation has vastly outpaced the funding available and contributed to a growing backlog of nearly 2 million acres in need of immediate restoration.

The REPLANT Act removes the current \$30 million funding cap and directs all wood product tariffs to refill the Reforestation Trust Fund – which would quadruple the amount of available funding to \$123 million per year on average. The bill only uses funds that are already being collected – it does not change the list of products, increase the tariffs, or use taxpayer funds.

The bill also directs the Forest Service to develop a 10-year plan and cost estimate to address the backlog of replanting needs on national forest land by 2031. It also prioritizes land in need of reforestation due to natural disasters that are unlikely to naturally regrow on their own.

Impact

The REPLANT Act will help reforest 4.1 million acres by planting 1.2 billion trees over the next 10 years. Planting these trees will sequester 75 million metric tons of carbon in a decade, which is equivalent to avoiding the use of 8.5 billion gallons of gasoline. Reforestation also improves soil health and protects wildlife habitats for hunting and fishing. It also strengthens our economy by creating jobs. A report completed by American Forests found that the REPLANT Act would create nearly 49,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

Co-Sponsors

In addition to Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Portman, Rep. Panetta, and Rep. Simpson, the bill is cosponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, Sen. Michael Bennet, Sen. Roger Marshall, Sen. Martin Heinrich, Rep. Kim Schrier, Rep. Doug LaMalfa, Rep. Abigail Spanberger, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Rep. Salud Carbajal, Rep. Paul Tonko, Rep. Mark Takano, and Rep. Debbie Dingell.

Broad Bipartisan Support

This legislation is supported by a broad range of leading organizations and companies including American Forests, Trust for Public Land, BPC Action, The Forest Stewards Guild, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, The Longleaf Alliance, Evangelical Environmental Network, Green Forests Work, Lyme Timber, REI, Salesforce, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and many others.