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Senator,

The American Loggers Council is pleased to announce that the Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH) program was an historic and unprecedented success! Unfortunately, the eligible financial assistance exceeded the \$200 million appropriation by almost double.

This need required the Farm Service Agency to adjust and factor the original formula to a point where in many cases the amount of financial assistance was reduced to less than half of what the applicant would have been eligible for. As an example, an applicant that would have been eligible, based on their gross income loss multiplied by 80% (original formula) for \$180,000 would have been limited to the maximum of \$125,000. The new formula, due to the excess request for assistance, limits the maximum to \$75,000 and then applies a multiplier of 70.5% to that figure resulting in a maximum limit of \$52,875. This is 42% of the original formula assistance level.

Additionally, where the original assistance formula would have provided for 80% of the gross revenue loss, the new formula only provides 70.5% of the gross revenue loss.

This level of need is evidence of the economic impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on the American timber industry. Multiple economic analysis reports indicated that the economic loss exceeded \$1 billion. Congress recognized this in appropriating the \$200 million. Now that the real economic need has been verified, and to meet the intent of Congress in providing adequate assistance to this vital industrial sector, a supplemental appropriation of \$185 million (as per Farm Service Agency data) needs to be appropriated.

Additional supplemental appropriations have been provided for other disaster and assistance programs when the demand exceeded the initial funding appropriation.

The American Loggers Council, and the timber industry that we represent, is extremely appreciative of the PATHH program assistance. The program's success has exceeded expectations and has received bipartisan support in both the Senate and House, as well as Administration support. Unfortunately, the success of the program has also revealed the extent of economic impact, loss and need within the timber industry sector. Therefore, the American Loggers Council respectfully requests an additional supplemental appropriation of \$185 million.

Respectfully,

Scott Dane  
Executive Director