

File Code: 3240 (8799194)

Date:

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter of January 25, 2022, to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, cosigned by Senator Susan M. Collins, supporting the Robbins Lumber project proposal submitted for consideration for fiscal year 2022 Wood Innovations Program funding. I apologize for the delayed response.

The Wood Innovations Program continues to deliver high quality projects to stimulate and expand wood product and wood energy markets. Working with State and local partners, the program supports projects that reduce fuels, improve forest health, reduce forest management costs, and promote the economic and environmental health of communities.

This year the Wood Innovations Program awarded 21 Community Wood Energy Grants and 78 Wood Innovations Grants. I am proud that the Robbins Lumber project was selected for a Community Wood Energy Grant for \$1,000,000 to upgrade their sawmill operations in Searsmont, Maine. Three additional projects will also be awarded funding from the Wood Innovations Program in the State of Maine, one of which will create a new mass timber building in Westbrook, Maine. Robbins Lumber and the other grant recipients were selected for their value as high-quality projects with the ability to increase forest management and economic opportunity in Maine.

Again, thank you for writing and for your interest in the Wood Innovations Program. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Jacob Donnay, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 205-1617 or jacob.donnay@usda.gov. A similar response is being sent to Senator Collins.

Sincerely,

RANDY MOORE
Chief

