



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Phase II Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant Application: *A Wisconsin forest products cluster: a catalyst for sustainable, enduring transformation*

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

As duly elected members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, we are writing in strong support of the Phase II Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant application from the coalition of partnering entities led by the Wisconsin Paper Council. This coalition's grant application, entitled "*A Wisconsin forest products cluster: a catalyst for sustainable, enduring transformation,*" aims to support Northern Wisconsin's forest products cluster.

If provided an implementation grant, the coalition will invest in the enhancement and sustainability of Wisconsin's forest-based economy. The proposed projects include building an R&D forest-fiber-paper-packing facility; generating recycling renovation; creating new markets for maple wood; and developing related training.

This funding opportunity will strengthen bottom-up, middle-out growth in communities nationwide by leveraging local assets and encouraging collaboration. Wisconsin's forest industry is a critical economic link to our nation's economic future and this regional cluster application is aimed at supporting and creating a sustainable and equitable future for the Midwest as well as the entire nation.

As you may know, Northern Wisconsin's forest products industry is the largest in the nation, providing high-quality jobs to nearly 39,000 workers and contributing \$18 billion to manufacturing output in the state. With the highest concentration of paper manufacturing in the United States, our region is the leading U.S. producer of paper products. Products ranging from tissue, to corrugated cardboard, to specialty papers, supply national markets and result in more than one billion of exports to one hundred countries.

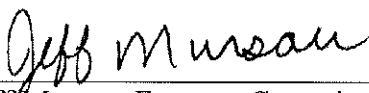
This 35-county regional cluster brings together industry, higher education, and State and Tribal governments, along with a strong commitment from labor organizations, to jointly focus on a sustainable future for the forest products industry. Led by the Wisconsin Paper Council, this

diverse coalition represents the interests of employers and workers and has gained significant support beyond the core coalition partners. Sector businesses, philanthropic groups, regional economic development organizations, veterans' organizations and state and federal elected leaders have all provided strong letters of support for this application.

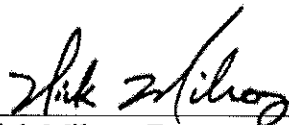
The vision presented by this coalition is the transformation of Wisconsin's forest products industry. The forest products industry will be positioned to anticipate, meet, exceed, and drive the demands of its 21st-century customers, who are seeking sustainable and high-performance products. This will create a resilient and thriving rural economy underpinned by sustainable forest management.

For these reasons, we have come together in a bipartisan manner to support this forward-thinking application, which is critical to the future success of our Wisconsin economy. Thank you for your continued dedication to our state and our nation.

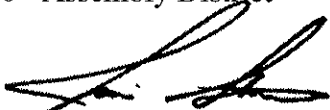
Sincerely,



Jeff Mursau, Forestry Committee Chair
36th Assembly District



Nick Milroy, Forestry Ranking Member
73rd Assembly District



Jim Steineke, Majority Leader
5th Assembly District



Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District

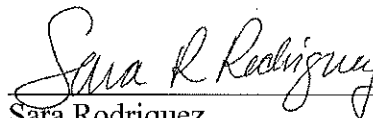


David Steffen
4th Assembly District



Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District

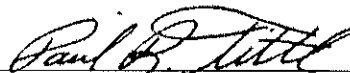
Dora Drake
11th Assembly District



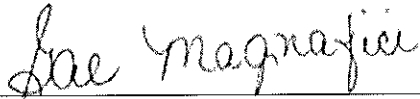
Sara Rodriguez
13th Assembly District



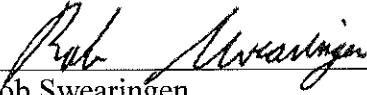
Deb Andraca
23rd Assembly District



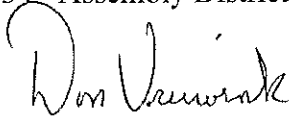
Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District



Gae Magnafici
28th Assembly District



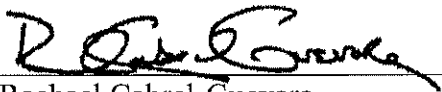
Rob Swearingen
34th Assembly District



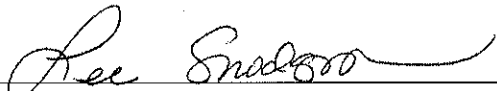
Don Vruwink
43rd Assembly District



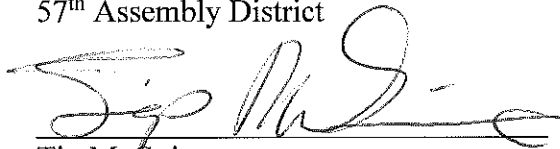
Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District



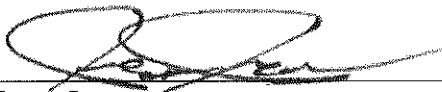
Rachael Cabrel-Guevara
55th Assembly District



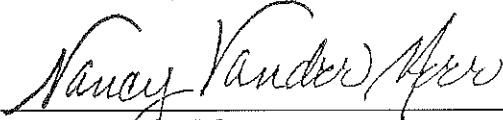
Lee Snodgrass
57th Assembly District



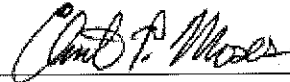
Tip McGuire
64th Assembly District



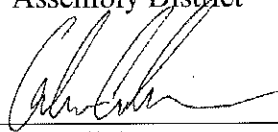
Jesse James
68th Assembly District



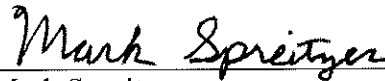
Nancy Vander Meer
70th Assembly District



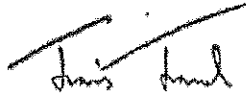
Clint Moses
29th Assembly District



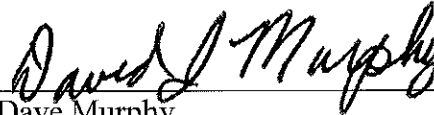
Calvin Callahan
35th Assembly District



Mark Spreitzer
45th Assembly District



Travis Tranel
49th Assembly District



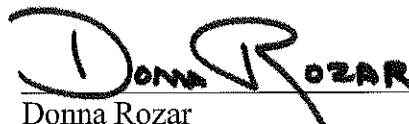
Dave Murphy
56th Assembly District



Robert Wittke
62nd Assembly District



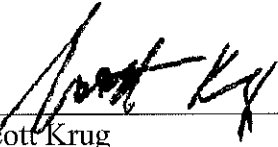
Tod Ohnstad
65th Assembly District



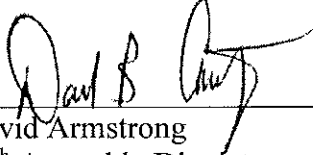
Donna Rozar
69th Assembly District



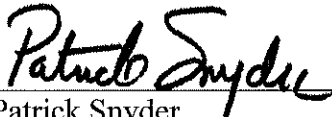
Katrina Shankland
71st Assembly District



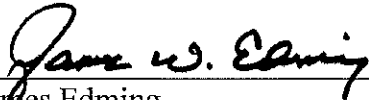
Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



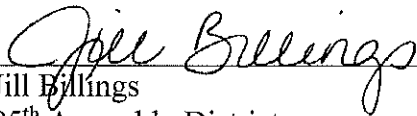
David Armstrong
75th Assembly District



Patrick Snyder
85th Assembly District



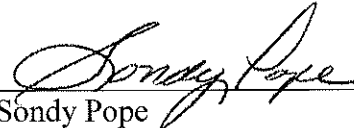
James Edming
87th Assembly District



Jill Billings
95th Assembly District



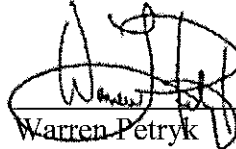
Beth Meyers
74th Assembly District



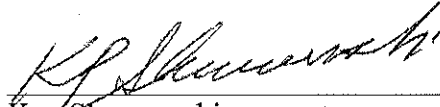
Sondy Pope
80th Assembly District



John Spinos
86th Assembly District



Warren Petryk
93rd Assembly District



Ken Skowronski
82nd Assembly District