

DISASTER REFORESTATION ACT (H.R. 262)

Introduced January 9, 2025



WHY IT MATTERS

Economic Impact: Private forests contribute to local economies through timber production, supply chains, and jobs. Without recovery tools, landowners may be forced to sell or convert land to non-forest uses, harming both rural economies and ecosystems.

Environmental Stewardship: Healthy forests provide clean air, fresh water, and wildlife habitats. Reforestation ensures these benefits endure for future generations.

Equity for Landowners: Unlike other agricultural producers, private forest landowners lack access to crop insurance or federal safety net programs. The Disaster Reforestation Act would address this by providing immediate and effective tax relief.

THE PROBLEM

Natural disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, pests, and diseases are increasing in frequency and intensity, devastating millions of acres of forests. Family landowners manage more than 290 million acres which provide critical benefits, like clean air, fresh water, and wildlife habitats as well as economic benefits from timber.

Unfortunately, the tax code leaves these landowners without adequate recovery options. The casualty loss deduction limits timber deductions to the adjusted cost basis- often \$0 for long-held or inherited forests- leaving many with no meaningful way to recoup losses. For multigenerational family businesses, this can jeopardize livelihoods, retirement plans, and forest health.



WHAT THE DISASTER REFORESTATION ACT WILL DO

This bill amends the tax code to allow forest landowners to deduct the true value of timber destroyed by natural disasters.

Key Benefits:

- **Supports Recovery:** Provides immediate tax relief to help landowners recover and reforest after disasters.
- **Promotes Reforestation:** Ensures only landowners who reforest within 5 years after a disaster are eligible for the casualty loss deduction.
- **Protects Family Businesses:** Many landowners rely on timber for their income or retirement. This bill safeguards their ability to recover from losses.
- **Addresses Growing Risks:** As disasters intensify, this bill offers a necessary safety net tool, preventing land conversion that would remove the environmental and economic benefits our forests provide.

SPONSORS

REPRESENTATIVE BUDDY CARTER (R-GA)
REPRESENTATIVE TERRI SEWELL (D-AL)

CALL TO ACTION

Support the Disaster Reforestation Act to provide private forest landowners with the tools they need to recover, reforest, and sustain the economic and environmental benefits their lands provide.

To Cosponsor:

- Contact Tommy Reynolds in Congressman Buddy Carter's Office
- Contact Patrick O'Connor in Congresswoman Terri Sewell's Office

To Learn More:

Contact Craig Anderson, FLA's VP of Government Affairs,
canderson@forestlandowners.com

