



## **Tall Wood Buildings**

### **Background**

Recent advances in technology, engineering and safety have now made it possible to build taller wood buildings using newly-developed mass timber products, which in turn would stimulate the economy and job growth, and provide support for the building of environmentally friendly, sustainable buildings. The “Timber Innovation Act” provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill create opportunities to use wood products, including mass timber, in the construction of so-called tall wood buildings.

The Timber Innovation Act, as enacted by the 2018 Farm Bill, includes the following provisions:

- Establish performance driven research and development program for advancing tall wood building construction in the United States;
- Codify the Forest Service’s Wood Innovation Grant program and expand it to facilitate Centers of Excellence and provide grants to states to fund education, outreach, research and development, including education and assistance for architects and builders, which will accelerate the use of wood in tall buildings.
- “Tall wood building” as those that are designed to be over 85 feet high.

This legislation would have the most direct impact on softwood and Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) interests as it is focused on internal structures. However, lower grade hardwoods are also potential raw materials for CLT technology and this potential should be explored and supported. Hardwood CLT demand is growing in European markets and enjoys strong interest in the U.S. as well.

### **Issue**

Federal support for CLT and CLT research has been criticized by other building material industries, including concrete and steel, calling into question safety and environmental issues. There are ongoing efforts to reduce or eliminate federal CLT related programs and funding, including TIA.

### **Hardwood Federation Position**

The Hardwood Federation believes that TIA will help spread our message that wood is a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly building material and supports full implementation and funding. The Hardwood Federation opposes any efforts to weaken or defund programs related to the TIA.