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## Letter, John C. Stennis to Gale W. McGee, October 2, 1973

John Cornelius Stennis

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 2, 1973

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Honorable Gale W. McGee, Chairman  
Agriculture, Environmental and Consumer Protection Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the Farm Bill package this year authorized a new program to encourage the production of forest products, the Forestry Incentives Act. This legislation was enacted too late to permit the appropriation of funds in the regular appropriation bill this year.

The Nation is faced with a known shortage of timber and other forest products in the years to come. Because of the long lead time involved it is essential that this forestry incentives program be initiated as soon as possible. The program is aimed at improving production on small, nonindustrial, privately owned tracts, from which must come practically all of the increased supplies of wood that will be required in the foreseeable future.

In view of the urgency of this matter, I would like to enlist your support in funding the program in a supplemental appropriation at the earliest opportunity. The authorization is for an annual appropriation of \$25 million. By the time a supplemental is passed, a part of the fiscal year will have elapsed, of course, so I would suggest that the supplemental contain a proportional part of the \$25 million, corresponding to the number of months remaining in which to implement the program this fiscal year. I should point out that although it is essential that this money be available for obligation this fiscal year, most of it will not be expended until early next fiscal year, when the work will actually be completed.

I have urged the Administration to include money in the next supplemental budget request for the above purpose. I cannot anticipate whether this will be done, but if it is not I believe the Congress should act to initiate this much needed program.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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As you are aware, under the terms of the conference report on Agriculture Appropriations, the money for forestry incentives will be administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

I hope that the initiation of this very worthy and urgently needed program will receive your attention and support.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

JOHN C. STENNIS  
United States Senator

JCS:ms

BC: Dudley D. Miles