

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 25, 2022

Mr. Randy Moore  
Chief of the Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Chief Moore:

We write in support of the applications submitted by Robbins Lumber to the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program and the Wood Innovations Grant Program. Funding through these programs is critical for Robbins Lumber's *Better Utilization of the Eastern White Pine Resource through Implementation of Value-based Scanning Project*.

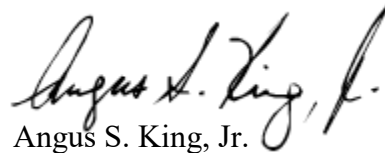
Robbins Lumber has a 140-year history of lumber milling, forest ownership, sustainable management, and expansion through adoption of new technology. The company is aiming to integrate an innovative approach into its milling operation by replacing its 30-year-old edger equipment, which is beyond its useful life and forces costly mill shutdowns for repairs with scarcely available parts. This new state-of-the-art edger assembly will integrate scanning technology to assess grade characteristics of each sawn board to enable maximum value-based recovery of the white pine as it is rip-sawn to width. This project will increase Robbins Lumber's efficiency and its competitiveness in the white pine mill industry in the northeast, reduce energy consumption and production of waste wood, and strengthen and grow a critical industry in rural Waldo County, which is rated as an economically transitional county by the Northern Border Regional Commission.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of Robbins Lumber. We urge your careful consideration of its proposals, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Trevor Hustus (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator