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Ottawa, ON

October 15, 2018

Standing Committee on Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Subject: STUDY ON FOREST PESTS

Dear committee members:

On behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), I want to thank the Committee for allowing us the opportunity to comment on your study to protect the Canadian forestry sector from the spread of forest pests, including the Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce Budworm.

The livelihood of the forestry industry and forestry-dependent municipalities across Canada has been directly threatened in recent years by the spread of forest pests that have the potential to cause significant long-term damage to forest resources.

Left unchecked, invasive species can have a devastating environmental and economic impact. Forest pests, such as the Mountain Pine Beetle and the Spruce Budworm, have impacted and continue to threaten commercial forestry activities, causing millions of dollars of damage and threatening the viability of local communities. Other forest pests, like Dutch Elm Disease and the Emerald Ash Borer, have impacted urban forests and placed a strain on limited municipal resources in response. Municipalities believe that coordinated action from the federal government is needed to help address forest pests and other invasive species.

A great example of this type of action has been the effective measures taken by the Government of Canada to address and mitigate the impacts of the Spruce Budworm, particularly in the affected areas of Quebec and Atlantic Canada. These measures include the Early Intervention Program in Atlantic Canada and the Strategic Initiative to Combat the Spruce Budworm Outbreak in Quebec.

FCM believes that the federal government can build on these successes in addressing forest pests and invasive species more broadly by:

- Delivering national programs that prevent forest pests from entering Canada and limit the spread of forest pests within Canada;
- Involve municipalities in the development and delivery of forest pests programs, and provide resources to local governments in instances where municipalities are directly involved in limiting the spread of forest pests; and
- Provide support to communities in regions that have been adversely impacted by forest pests.

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If you or your staff have any questions or require further information, please contact Hardave Birk, Government Relations Advisor, at 613-907-6331 or hbirk@fcm.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vicki May-Hamm", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vicki May-Hamm
Mairesse, Ville de Magog
FCM President