

From: Portia Brown <president@kwoa.net>  
Subject: Cosponsor FCEP Forest Conservation Easement Program Act of 2023 (S. 2631)  
Date: May 9, 2024 at 12:50:55 PM EDT  
To: callum\_case@paul.senate.gov  
Cc: Info KWOA <info@kwoa.net>  
Reply-To: Info KWOA <info@kwoa.net>

## Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

*“Bringing people and woodland sustainability together”*

P.O. Box 1201; Frankfort, KY 40602-1201

[info@kwoa.net](mailto:info@kwoa.net) | [www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)

May 7, 2024

[callum\\_case@paul.senate.gov](mailto:callum_case@paul.senate.gov)  
The Kentucky Senate Delegation

Dear Mr. Case,

Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, KWOA, respectfully requests that **Senator Rand Paul cosponsor the Forest Conservation Easement Program Act of 2023 (S. 2631)**, which was introduced by Senators Gillibrand (D-NY) and Wicker (R-MS). **We need your boss’s support for FCEP now to help ensure it’s included in the Senate’s bipartisan Farm Bill.**

To cosponsor, reach out to [claire\\_descamps@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:claire_descamps@gillibrand.senate.gov) or [mikhail\\_love@wicker.senate.gov](mailto:mikhail_love@wicker.senate.gov).

S. 2631 would authorize \$100M/year in discretionary funding for FCEP, making **the marker bill budget neutral**. However, the ultimate goal is for FCEP to be included in the Farm Bill conservation title with mandatory funding. S. 2631 has support from [over 170 organizations](#).

Kentucky's woodlands provides important economic value to Kentucky, from bourbon barrels to toilet paper, and everything in between. This value is further compounded by the environmental benefits ranging from carbon sequestration, healthy air, water, & soils, and wildlife habitat; benefits that also bear economic returns in recreation and non-timber wood products. FCEP is designed to keep forests from being converted to non-forest uses by purchasing development rights – via voluntary conservation easements – from willing private and tribal landowners. Private forests in an FCEP easement can remain working forests, contributing to timber economies and providing numerous environmental benefits to rural and urban communities. FCEP would rename, replace, and expand upon the existing Healthy Forests Reserve Program and serve as a forest-focused complement to the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. FCEP fills gaps in current federal forest easement programs, including by providing funding for land trust organizations and tribes to acquire forest easements, which doesn't currently exist in any federal forest easement programs.

You can view FCEP background materials at [www.foresteasement.org](http://www.foresteasement.org) (“Learn More” section).

Thanks for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Portia Brown, President  
Kentucky Woodland Owners Association, KWOA  
[web: www.kwoa.net](http://www.kwoa.net)

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