



## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 20, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We are writing to express strong support for the Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub (MTTH) grant application submitted under the Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub Call for Proposals.

The MTTH is a collaborative consortium of more than 120 companies, state agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Many Oregon partners have been working together since 2020 as part of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition (OMTC), led by Oregon State University, and joined by Washington State University in 2023 through an NSF Regional Innovation Engines grant.

The Pacific Northwest was the first region in the United States to develop a mass timber industry and now hosts the country's largest concentration of design, engineering, manufacturing, and construction expertise in this emerging high-growth building sector.

Global and domestic demand for mass timber continues to rise—growing approximately 25% annually in the United States, with projects underway in all 50 states. Expanded domestic production will support up to 22,000 new jobs, strengthen rural economies, and increase the availability of sustainable, prefabricated housing. This effort aligns with national goals to build one million new homes over the next decade, while advancing precision construction practices. Increased use of mass timber will also create markets for small diameter logs from forest thinning operations that reduce wildfire risk—a challenge that costs the nation an estimated \$394–\$893 billion per year.

To ensure global competitiveness, the MTTH proposes three integrated initiatives:

- **GROW** – Build customer pipelines, expand into new sectors (healthcare, industrial, military, affordable housing), streamline regulatory pathways, and improve access to capital.
- **INNOVATE** – Use university research and testing facilities for cost-effective prototyping; support code compliance; launch a maker space for housing startups; advance kit-of-parts housing

products; and enable long-term wood supply contracts covering 1.2 million acres of national forest.

- **TRAIN** – Provide targeted outreach and employment services to connect job seekers to careers in forestry, manufacturing, and construction, developing the skilled workforce the industry requires.

Over the past 18 months, private-sector members of MTTH have committed more than \$420 million in manufacturing investment. A strategic federal investment of \$33 million will accelerate industry growth, strengthen the region's global competitiveness, revive a \$23-billion-per-year legacy forest industry, and ensure that U.S. manufacturers and workers benefit from the rapid expansion of mass timber construction.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing American innovation and rural economic development. We appreciate your full and fair consideration of the Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub proposal.

Sincerely,



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress