



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

The Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13693 – *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* – directed the EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality, to issue these recommendations to assist federal purchasers in identifying and procuring environmentally sustainable products. The EPA's Interim Recommendation for the lumber/wood category is based on the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Priority Products List.

As a result of stakeholder inquiries since the release of the Interim Recommendation, the EPA has met and is continuing to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship to gain further information. I have also directed the agency's Standards Executive to reach out to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the other forestry labels that stakeholders have requested the EPA consider. She will be in touch with these groups regarding her review of forestry labels and their alignment with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act, the OMB Circular A119, and related federal policies that guide the EPA's use of voluntary consensus standards and private sector conformity assessment activities. In addition, the EPA continues to progress with piloting our Guidelines for Assessing Standards and Ecolabels for Use in Federal Procurement (the Guidelines), and hopes that information gleaned from this process will inform thinking related to the lumber/wood category. Finally, the DOE continues to conduct research to inform their FY16 Priority Products List. The EPA looks forward to reviewing all of this additional data to inform if and how the lumber/wood category of Interim Recommendations might be revised.

In your letter you urged the EPA to make the Recommendations available for public comment before finalizing. The agency has, and will continue to provide, mechanisms for public input as we develop these recommendations. We issued Federal Register Notices on the initial draft guidelines in 2014 and in March 2015 for the launch of our pilot work. Those FRNs were open to public comment and they marked the beginning of our efforts to engage multi-stakeholder panels whose counsel will be considered as we move to finalize our recommendations. Further, any federal acquisition requirements stemming from the recommendations would include a public comment process prior to incorporation into the Federal Acquisition Regulations. As such, FAR Case 2015-033 has been developed in order to integrate the new requirements of E.O. 13693 into the FAR. All next steps related to this case, including

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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov](mailto:kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov) or 202-566-2753.

Sincerely,



James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator Cochran:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

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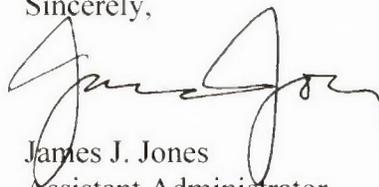
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Sincerely,

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James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

The Honorable Angus S. King  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

The Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13693 – *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* – directed the EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality, to issue these recommendations to assist federal purchasers in identifying and procuring environmentally sustainable products. The EPA's Interim Recommendation for the lumber/wood category is based on the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Priority Products List.

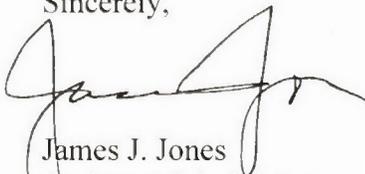
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Sincerely,



James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator Boozman:

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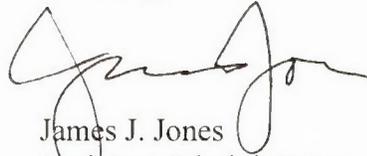
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James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

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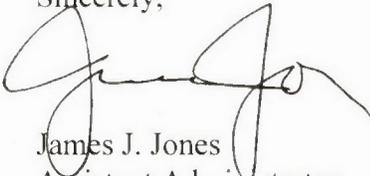
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Sincerely,



James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

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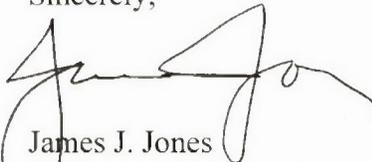
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Sincerely,



James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator Cassidy:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

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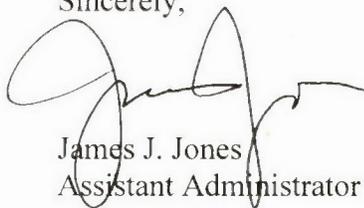
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James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

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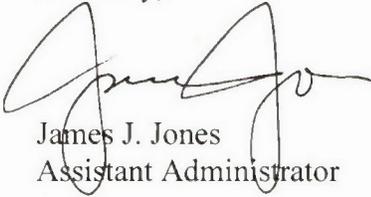
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Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

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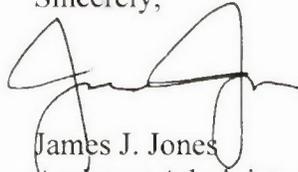
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[http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/far\\_case\\_status.html](http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/far_case_status.html).

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov](mailto:kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov) or 202-566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Jones', written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable James E. Risch  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2016, and your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Interim Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal environmentally sustainable procurement.

The Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13693 – *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade* – directed the EPA, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and the Council on Environmental Quality, to issue these recommendations to assist federal purchasers in identifying and procuring environmentally sustainable products. The EPA's Interim Recommendation for the lumber/wood category is based on the Department of Energy's Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Priority Products List.

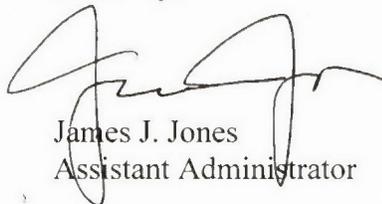
As a result of stakeholder inquiries since the release of the Interim Recommendation, the EPA has met and is continuing to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship to gain further information. I have also directed the agency's Standards Executive to reach out to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the other forestry labels that stakeholders have requested the EPA consider. She will be in touch with these groups regarding her review of forestry labels and their alignment with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act, the OMB Circular A119, and related federal policies that guide the EPA's use of voluntary consensus standards and private sector conformity assessment activities. In addition, the EPA continues to progress with piloting our Guidelines for Assessing Standards and Ecolabels for Use in Federal Procurement (the Guidelines), and hopes that information gleaned from this process will inform thinking related to the lumber/wood category. Finally, the DOE continues to conduct research to inform their FY16 Priority Products List. The EPA looks forward to reviewing all of this additional data to inform if and how the lumber/wood category of Interim Recommendations might be revised.

In your letter you urged the EPA to make the Recommendations available for public comment before finalizing. The agency has, and will continue to provide, mechanisms for public input as we develop these recommendations. We issued Federal Register Notices on the initial draft guidelines in 2014 and in March 2015 for the launch of our pilot work. Those FRNs were open to public comment and they marked the beginning of our efforts to engage multi-stakeholder panels whose counsel will be considered as we move to finalize our recommendations. Further, any federal acquisition requirements stemming from the recommendations would include a public comment process prior to incorporation into the Federal Acquisition Regulations. As such, FAR Case 2015-033 has been developed in order to integrate the new requirements of E.O. 13693 into the FAR. All next steps related to this case, including

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[http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/far\\_case\\_status.html](http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/far_case_status.html).

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov](mailto:kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov) or 202-566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Jones', written over the typed name and title.

James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator