SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK
SERVICE COMMISSION

November 26, 2026
33 Wall Street, St. Stephen

SNBSC Letter of Support – Canada FIRM Challenge

Dear Canada FIRM Challenge Program Team,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission (SNBSC), provide a letter of support on behalf of the regional service commission for a regional study, to the Canada Forest Innovation and Renewable Markets (FIRM) Challenge for a fully funded Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Rating.

SNBSC is the Regional Service Commission for southwest New Brunswick. Under provincial regulation, and through our partnership with WorkingNB, the Commission is responsible for delivering regional economic development on behalf of the municipalities and communities of our region, including the Town of St. Stephen. The Board of Directors is made up of the mayors of our member municipalities and representatives of our rural districts, so this letter reflects a regional, community-level endorsement of the application.

We are aware of this application and support it. The application is being prepared by SNBSC's Economic Development team in collaboration with the Town of St. Stephen, Synergi, and Future St. Stephen. Because of the timing of municipal budget deliberations, this letter is provided by the Regional Service Commission so that the community's awareness and support are confirmed by the submission deadline, while the application continues to move through the Town's Council process.

Forestry has long been central to the economy of southwest New Brunswick, and our region sees real potential in attracting new investment in biofuels, bioenergy and biomanufacturing. A BDO Zone Rating would give St. Stephen and the surrounding region an independent, investor-grade assessment of our forest biomass supply and industrial sites, along with access to the global project developers connected through the BDO Zone Markets Acceleration Centre. This fits directly with the Commission's regional economic development priorities, including our work on industrial property readiness and attracting new employers to the region.

If St. Stephen is selected, SNBSC is prepared to:

- Act as a regional coordinating partner for the BDO Zone Rating process, working with the Town of St. Stephen, local partners and Ecostrat;
- Help connect the rating team with biomass suppliers, landowners, industrial site owners and provincial partners in the region;
- Share available information on industrial land, infrastructure and workforce; and

- Work with prospective developers who come forward as a result of the rating, using our investment attraction and business support services.

The Board of Directors fully supports this application and encourages its favourable consideration. Please contact Briana Cowie, Director of Economic Development, at briana.cowie@snbsc.ca or (506) 466-7369 ext. 407 if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Morse
Chair, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission



Hollis Bartlett
Chief Executive Officer, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission