

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We, the undersigned, representing the United States forest products value chain, including state forestry agencies, forest owners, forest managers, suppliers and manufacturers who make essential products, urge your Administration to engage with European government counterparts regarding the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains (EUDR) that will restrict U.S. forest product access to European markets beginning in December 2025.

While the EUDR aims to eliminate products sold in the EU that are linked to deforestation, its stringent and unprecedented bureaucratic obligations are unworkable and disadvantage the U.S. forest products industry, which accounts for approximately 5% of total U.S. manufacturing GDP, employs about 925,000 people, and includes nearly 11 million small U.S. family forest owners. This regulation threatens to disrupt trade with the EU which is valued at more than \$3.5 billion.

Due to stakeholder engagement, implementation of the EUDR regulations has been delayed until December 2025. However, the delay does not address the severe compliance challenges that continue to jeopardize U.S. forest product exports.

The overly prescriptive requirements of the regulation do not recognize the U.S. as a world leader in modern, sustainable forest management. The U.S. forest products industry does not contribute to global deforestation, and already has control mechanisms in place covering our wood fiber inputs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that we grow twice the volume of trees than we harvest. In fact, over the last 10 years, the largest gains in forest land area in the U.S. have been **reversions of agricultural land back into forest**.¹ Extensive USDA analysis and the EU's own Observatory on deforestation and forest degradation correctly show that deforestation in the U.S. is negligible.

A key concern for U.S. forest products producers is the unnecessarily strict geolocation and traceability requirements, requiring us to provide coordinates for all plots of land from which a product shipment was sourced. The size and scope of the U.S. forest products

¹ <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-Assessment-of-Ag-driven-Deforestation.pdf>

supply chain makes precise linkage from forest plot to the final product impractical and incredibly costly.

U.S. government engagement with the European Union is needed to address EUDR which represents an overly-stringent, one-size-fits-all non-tariff trade barrier. Unless further changes are negotiated, millions of private landowners, U.S. manufacturing jobs and significant exports to the EU will be put at risk.

We urge you and our U.S. trade advisors to include EUDR on the list of items to negotiate with the European Union. The United States is a global leader in managing forest resources and must be recognized as not contributing to deforestation, or unjustifiably subject to a compliance burden that weakens U.S. forest product producers' access to EU markets.

Sincerely,

Alabama Forestry Association
Allegheny Hardwood Utilization
Group, Inc.
American Cooperage Industries of
America
American Forest & Paper Association
American Forest Foundation
American Hardwood Export Council
American Loggers Council
American Wood Council
Appalachian Hardwood
Manufacturers
Appalachian Lumbermen's Club
Arkansas Forestry Association
Arkansas Timber Producers
Association
Associated Logging Contractors of
Idaho
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
Association of Consulting Foresters
Composite Panel Association
Decorative Hardwood Association
Decorative Hardwoods Association
Empire State Forest Products
Association
Florida Forestry Association
Forest Resources Association
Forestry Association of South Carolina
Georgia Forestry Association

Great Lakes Timber Producers
Association
The Hardwood Federation
Hardwood Manufacturers Association
Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's
Association
Kentucky Forest Industries
Association
Lake States Lumber Association
Maine Forest Products Council
Maple Flooring Manufacturers
Association
Minnesota Forest Industries
Mississippi Forestry Association
Missouri Forest Products Association
National Association of State
Foresters
National Hardwood Lumber
Association
National Wood Flooring Association
National Woodland Owners
Association
New England Lumbermen's
Association
North Carolina Forestry Association
Northeast Loggers Association
Ohio Forest Products Association
Ohio Forestry Association
Oregon Women in Timber

Pacific Coast Hardwood Distributors
Association
Pennsylvania Forest Products
Association
Penn-York Lumbermen's Club
Railway Tie Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers
Association
Southeastern Wood Producers
Association
Southern Cypress Manufacturers
Association
Southern Forest Products Association

Southwestern Hardwood
Manufacturers Club
Tennessee Forestry Association
Treated Wood Council
United States Industrial Pellet
Association
Virginia Forest Products Association
West Virginia Forestry Association
Western Hardwood Association
Wisconsin Paper Council
Wood Component Manufacturers
Association

CC:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Jameison Greer, Nominee for United States Trade Representative