

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Rollins and Ambassador Greer:

We write today to share our increasing concerns related to the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) and to request your assistance in opposing these burdensome and unrealistic regulations.

In the South, there are over one million individuals working jobs in or related to forestry and the forest products industry. Additionally, there are over 245 million acres of Southern forests, with 86 percent of those acres being privately owned. The EUDR regulations contain geolocation tracking and reporting requirements, such as tracing products back to the specific plot of land where they were produced and harvested, from even the smallest forest owners. This level of tracing a product is cumbersome, if not impossible, and creates financial burdens that will negatively impact markets and landowners across the United States. We anticipate these requirements will cause irreparable harm in a time when much of the South is already experiencing difficult market environments.

We have always strived to protect private property rights, and these regulations threaten to infringe on these important rights. To satisfy the proposed EUDR regulations, some procurement contracts are already including language that guarantees landowners will replant the timberland they are harvesting and selling. Southern landowners do an exceptional job of sustainably managing and replanting timber, and therefore, we believe landowners should have the right to use their land as they desire.

The United States has been designated as a low-risk country under the EUDR benchmarking; however, this low-risk designation provides only limited relief. United States' landowners are already satisfying the objectives of EUDR, so simplified requirements for the United States and other low-risk countries are needed to ensure landowners can continue practicing long-term, sustainable forest management.

Due to the negative effect the regulations will have on the United States' forest products industry and American wood exports, we are asking you to encourage European Union leaders to reconsider this non-tariff trade barrier. If you have any additional questions, we are happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Alabama Farmers Federation  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Forestry Association  
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Forestry Association  
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Texas Farm Bureau Federation  
Texas Forestry Association