

August 24, 2020

Dear President Trump-

The undersigned organizations support the prompt publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rulemaking on biomass carbon neutrality.

Forestry and the forest products industry are a vital component of America's essential domestic manufacturing infrastructure and comprise 4.2% of the U.S. manufacturing GDP. We are the economic backbone of thousands of rural communities across the nation and employ approximately 950,000 hardworking men and women, making the industry a top 10 manufacturing employer in 45 states. More than 75 percent of all U.S. pulp and paper mills are in counties that are more than 80 percent rural where they frequently serve as the largest employer. Furthermore, the vast majority of the over 800 U.S. wood product facilities are located in or near rural areas where they contribute almost \$1 billion in state and local taxes.

In its 2010 Tailoring Rule, the EPA for the first-time treated carbon emissions from biomass energy like fossil fuels, without regard to the forest carbon cycle of planting, growth, harvesting and replanting. This subjects biomass energy to cumbersome regulations and permit processes, and it cannot be counted on as a fuel of the future. No other country in the world has created this regulatory uncertainty for forest bioenergy. This uncertainty impedes investment planning and places the U.S. forest products industry at a competitive disadvantage in the global market.

After a decade of delay, this regulation is critical for working forests and local communities and economies across rural America. Regulatory clarity is needed to ensure that investments can be made in U.S. forest products manufacturing facilities and that the American forest products industry has a level playing field to compete in the global market with other countries that acknowledge carbon neutral biomass.

Please direct the EPA to issue the proposed rule immediately so that they are able to complete the final rule before the end of this year.

Cc: Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States  
Mark Meadows, White House Chief of Staff

Alabama Forestry Association  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Forest Resource Council  
American Loggers Council  
American Wood Council  
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Inc.  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Arkansas Timber Producers Association  
Associated California Loggers  
Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers of Minnesota  
Associated Logging Contractors – Idaho  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF)  
California Forestry Association  
Decorative Hardwoods Association  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Florida Forestry Association  
Forest Industry National Labor Management Committee  
Forest Landowners Association  
Forest Resources Association  
Forestry Association of South Carolina  
Georgia Forestry Association  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Loggers Association  
Maine Forest Products Council  
Michigan Association of Timbermen  
Minnesota Forest Industries  
Mississippi Forestry Association  
Missouri Forest Products Association  
National Alliance Forest Owners  
National Woodland Owners Association  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.  
Oregon Women In Timber  
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association  
Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC)  
Professional Logging Contractors of Maine  
South Carolina Timber Producers Association  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association

Southeastern Wood Producers Association  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
Treated Wood Council  
Virginia Forestry Association  
Washington Contract Loggers Association  
Washington Forest Protection Association, WFPA  
Western Wood Preservers Institute  
Wisconsin Paper Council