

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 4, 2025

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

We write to express concerns from Mississippi's forestry sector regarding the European Union's deforestation-free supply chains regulation 2023/1115 (EUDR) and its potential impacts on the U.S. forest products industry and other sectors of the state's economy. In Mississippi, forestry has a nearly \$20 billion impact on the state's economy, supporting 130,000 landowners and 84,000 jobs. As currently designed, the EUDR is a non-tariff trade barrier that introduces substantial uncertainty for landowners, manufacturers, and exporters in our state, and risks further depressing already strained log and wood-product markets, harming rural communities that depend on healthy, functioning timber economies.

The E.U. recognizes the United States as a low-risk country, indicating negligible or insignificant levels of deforestation. Even with a low-risk designation, the reporting and traceability requirements set forth in the EUDR remain cumbersome and create tougher conditions for all parts of the timber supply chain. Regardless of risk level, exporters must still provide geolocation data and verifiable information showing that the product is deforestation-free. The system required to comply with this regulation does not fit the complex supply chain used by our domestic timber industry, and it will create significant administrative and cost burdens for businesses and landowners.

Several timber buyers in Mississippi have begun adding language to purchase agreements stating that they will not buy timber from a landowner who does not affirm an intent to replant following harvest. While reforestation is common practice across Mississippi, conditioning market access on a landowner's declared future management intentions intrudes into private-property decision-making and impacts other agricultural and natural resource industries that are key to the state's economy. These requirements are not being driven by current responsible industry practices, but by preemptive actions to comply with EUDR requirements that were never tailored to the U.S. regulatory system or to the realities of private ownership.

We respectfully request your engagement with the E.U. in recognizing the responsible forest management practices in the United States and Mississippi forestry sectors, in supporting simplified EUDR compliance requirements for the United States as a low-risk country for deforestation, and in addressing how the current regulation infringes on American private property rights. As the United States continues trade discussions, we urge the Trump Administration to encourage E.U. leaders to adopt a risk-based approach to implementation of the EUDR that reflects the sustainable forest management practices used in our state and in the United States, and that minimizes unnecessary burdens on low-risk trading partners.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Mike Ezell
United States Representative



Michael Guest
United States Representative



Trent Kelly
United States Representative



Bennie Thompson
United States Representative

CC:

The Honorable Howard Lutnick, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Brooke Rollins, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Luke Lindberg, U.S. Under Secretary for Agriculture for Trade and Foreign
Agricultural Affairs