

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2026

Ursula von der Leyen  
European Commission President  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear President von der Leyen:

We write to encourage you to maintain the current text and implementation timeline of the European Union (EU) Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). We staunchly oppose the Trump administration’s attempts to weaken the EUDR with a proposed “no risk” designation for countries and further delay in implementation. These changes will not only encourage forest loss and degradation but also disadvantage companies in the United States and elsewhere that have prepared to comply with the EUDR, and create uncertainty, inefficiencies, and inconsistencies across covered industries. We should encourage others to achieve this readiness to achieve deforestation-free supply chains.

A “no risk” designation exempting certain countries’ operators from traceability requirements and enforcement checks would prevent accountability and impede enforcement. It would create significant loopholes for forest degradation and create disadvantages for countries from the Global South. With over 10 million hectares—the size of Portugal—being deforested each year and accounting for up to 21% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the EUDR is necessary to combat the existential climate crisis.<sup>1</sup> We must use every tool in our toolbox to protect our planet, and in doing so, we must acknowledge that many countries pose at least some risk of deforestation.

Additionally, the Trump administration’s recent efforts to reopen the EUDR and create a “no risk” designation come as federal agencies implement an executive order to rescind our domestic forest protections and “fully exploit our domestic timber supply.”<sup>2</sup> The administration cannot be seen as a credible negotiator on the EUDR as it seeks to undermine both EU and US forest protections while seeking a special “no risk” title. Should the EU create this designation and

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1 <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/global-deforestation-slows--but-forests-remain-under-pressure--fao-report-shows/en>

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/whats-redd-and-will-it-help-tackle-climate-change/>

2 <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-deforestation-law-will-discourage-us-producers-from-exporting-to-eu-us-official-warns/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/immediate-expansion-of-american-timber-production/>

consider the US for classification, American companies will operate in a regulatory desert absent transparency and oversight. This creates the potential for unchecked deforestation and forest degradation while unfairly penalizing American companies that invested in sustainable practices and supply chains to comply with domestic and foreign regulations.

The EUDR should be implemented as scheduled at the end of this year—a third delay risks continued harm to our planet and creates further market uncertainty. Some companies have appreciated the extended timeline to prepare for compliance. Originally scheduled to take effect at the end of 2024, and now extended to the end of 2026, companies have had ample time to adapt to new traceability requirements. Now, it is time to move forward. Any additional delays will pose challenges on business leaders navigating global trade rules and regulations, particularly those who have already invested in compliance. American companies have had time to invest in traceability technology and make sustainable procurement and sourcing decisions. Now, they have the opportunity to display their best practices and leadership under the EUDR and gain a competitive advantage globally. Further delaying implementation a year risks over 16 million tons of CO2 emissions this year alone.<sup>3</sup>

American companies are primed for success as the EUDR helps level the playing field globally by creating accountability for unscrupulous actors and ensuring a transparent and fair market.

The EU must hold the line and implement the EUDR as currently written. Any additional changes and delays jeopardize the health of our planet's lungs and ability to combat the climate crisis. We look forward to continued conversation with you about how best to ensure full implementation of the EUDR and how to support our industries in compliance and leadership.

Sincerely,



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

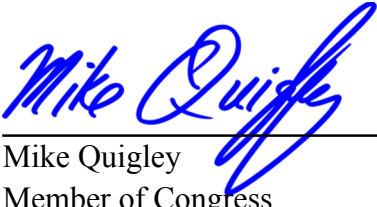


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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

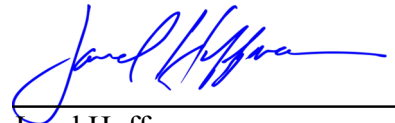
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<sup>3</sup> <https://forestsforward.panda.org/?20324291/European-Commission-greenlights-further-irresponsible-measures-on-deforestation>



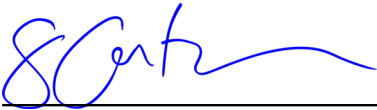
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



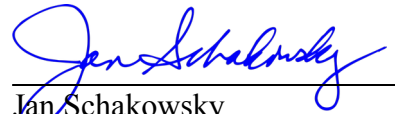
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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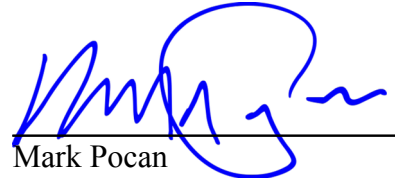
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
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Summer L. Lee  
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Greg Casar  
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



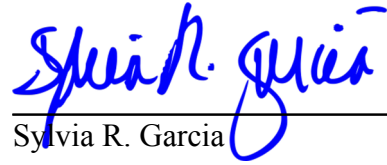
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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



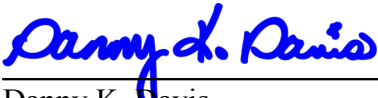
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



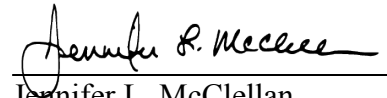
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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



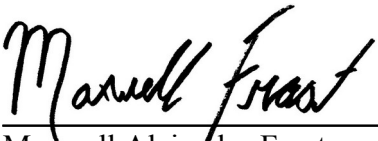
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
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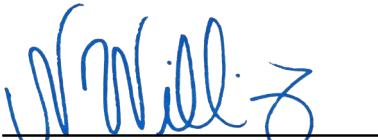
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
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Yassamin Ansari  
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Deborah K. Ross  
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



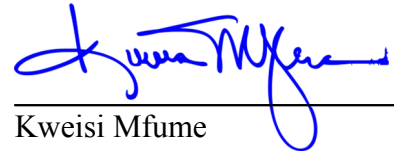
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress