



May 30, 2024

MR. MAROŠ ŠEFCOVIČ
Executive Vice President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Executive Vice President Šefčovič:

The United States shares the European Union's commitment to combating deforestation and appreciates our continued dialogue regarding the European Union's (EU) Deforestation-Free Supply Chain Regulation (EUDR). As a leader in addressing deforestation, the United States has been, and continues to be, committed to conserving critical ecosystems and addressing drivers of global deforestation. We are concerned, however, that the EUDR raises several issues related to how the regulation will be implemented and the impact it may have on U.S. producers that engage in sustainable production practices. Given the EUDR will be enforced on December 30, 2024, we are deeply concerned with the remaining uncertainty and the short timeframe to address the significant challenges for U.S. producers to comply with the regulation.

Together with several U.S. stakeholders, we have identified four critical challenges for U.S. producers to understand and comply with the EUDR. First, the EU has yet to establish a final version of the EUDR Information System for producers to submit mandatory due diligence statements. Second, the EU has not provided clear implementing guidance, which has complicated the development of compliance systems across global supply chains. Third, many EU member states have not designated a competent authority to enforce the regulation. Finally, the EU made an interim decision to classify all countries as standard risk regardless of forestry practices. Failure to address these issues before the enforcement of the EUDR could have significant negative economic effects on both producers and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

We are strong partners in the fight against deforestation and we seek to continue that collaboration while minimizing undue transatlantic trade disruptions caused by the EUDR. We therefore urge the European Commission to delay the implementation of this regulation and subsequent enforcement of penalties until these substantial challenges have been addressed. We also encourage ongoing collaboration to identify and address issues and concerns with the EUDR such that the regulation can most effectively address global deforestation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

GINA M. RAIMONDO
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce

AMBASSADOR KATHERINE C. TAI
U.S. Trade Representative