July 30, 2022

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

Subject: Executive Order 14072: Strengthening the Nation’s Communities, and Local Economies

**OUR FORESTS ARE BEING PROTECTED TO DEATH!**

The current threat to our mature and old-growth forests is the overprotection they have received in recent years. As a resident of the Williams, Oregon area for over 50 years the local forests are in the worst shape I have ever seen. There are great swaths of dead/dying trees just waiting to be excellent fodder in the event of a fire.

If strengthening local economies is a desire, then the harvesting of trees is an excellent way to produce family-wage employment opportunities. Harvesting of trees, a renewable resource, helps to keep our forests healthy and strong against insects, disease, and fire.

**PLEASE STOP PROTECTING OUT FORESTS TO DEATH!**

Eva Waters

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