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Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

Thank you for taking the next steps to advance President Biden's Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies.

Protecting our remaining mature and old-growth forests and trees on federal lands represents one of the simplest and most cost-effective climate policies the U.S. can deploy at scale.

But time is running short: the climate and biodiversity crises are growing exponentially worse and it is critical that you prioritize fulfilling the President's directive to provide lasting protections for these trees.

I urge the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Interior to work together to initiate a rulemaking based on a definition of mature forests and trees over 80 years in order to permanently end the avoidable loss through logging of their critically important carbon, water and wildlife values.

Thank you for your care, commitment, and swift action.