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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.

It seems that for the purpose of protecting climate-critical forests from logging, 'mature' should be defined as trees over 80 years old. Only in rare and exceptional circumstances should logging of these mature trees be allowed. There is an urgent need to confront the threats forests face, since if continued harvesting of these trees is allowed, the climate crisis will only worsen.

These protections must be made through binding regulations that will endure in future administrations, and it is critical for federal agencies to initiate a rule-making process as soon as possible. I urge the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Interior to work together as quickly as possible to initiate a process based on a definition of mature forests and trees over 80 years, to permanently end the avoidable loss of their critically important carbon, water and wildlife values to logging.

Thank you