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Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack, Secretary Haaland and associated parties,

Thank you for accepting comments on Executive Order 14072 on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies.

Preserving and maintaining old growth forests is an incredibly important topic. These amazing places provide a myriad of ecosystem services that have incalculable value. Old growth forests serve as critical habitat for our nations species, making them essential for addressing the current biodiversity loss occurring in our nation. Old growth forests are also essential for maintaining clean water, and of course their ability to sequester carbon makes their health a mandatory part of our efforts to mitigate climate change.

In addition, these places provide outdoor recreational value that is an essential part of a fulfilling life for so many Americans. Now more than ever, we need these special places to provide the quiet and solitude that is so hard to come by in the hectic lives we now live. The role of old growth forests in supporting ecotourism dollars for many small communities is significant as well.

Please take dramatic steps to protect these places from human impacts. In particular, please eliminate logging projects directed at old growth forests masquerading as "fire suppression". The short term economic gains of exploiting these forests should never outweigh their protection for current and future generations. Please make sure that our pristine old growth forests continue to be one of the most cherished resources that our nation possesses.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.