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Comments: To whom it may concern,

Our planet needs standing forests as a natural solution to climate change. We need forests to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We need forests to clean our water, and we need forests to purify our air.

Forests have a far greater purpose than being chopped down for paper, packaging, or pellets. To slow climate change, we need standing forests, but we're destroying them rapidly instead. We must take action to protect what we still have. Our forests could do so much more for the climate if we allow them to grow old.

Our forests are one of the most important tools that we have to fight climate change. Forests are the biggest, fastest way to absorb carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and store it safely in the ground for decades and even centuries. Forests alone can't solve the entire climate change crisis, but scientists estimate that "natural solutions" can help with about a third of needed greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

An easy trap to fall into is believing that we need to plant trees to absorb carbon from greenhouse gas emissions and to prevent climate change. Yet old forest ecosystems store carbon faster and in greater quantities than young forests and seedlings. What we actually must do is maximize our conservation efforts in existing forest ecosystems.

We need to preserve large swaths of forests in the United States, increasing their overall age, and consequently, permanent carbon storage and support policies that conserve more forests in this country.

According to Professor William Moomaw, co-Nobel Laureate for his authorship of the IPCC climate study, .."If we manage our forests differently they could absorb twice as much carbon as they already do now....The cutting down of these trees is what causes forest fires....If we were to allow more trees to get to be big, old trees, we would not only reduce forest fires, we would store much more carbon..." (50 year old forest = 22 tons of carbon/100 year old forest = 47 tons of carbon)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl9Z\\_miGBNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl9Z_miGBNw)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Moomaw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Moomaw)

Please protect our old growth forests and standing forests!

Sincerely yours,

Aliss Terrell, citizen, parent, filmmaker