

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

We write to urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take decisive regulatory action to modernize and expand the treatment of woody biomass under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in a manner consistent with the Clean Air Act, sound science, and real-world forest management practices.

America's working forests are facing mounting economic pressure as long-standing markets for pulpwood and residuals continue to disappear. While high-quality timber remains valuable, forest and sawmill owners increasingly lack viable outlets for treetops, thinnings, slash, and mill byproducts that are a critical share of forest and supply chain revenues. The result is lost rural income, fewer jobs, and growing difficulty keeping working forests economically viable and intact.

At the same time, the United States faces urgent energy, environmental, and wildfire-resilience challenges. Woody biomass offers a rare opportunity to turn waste into wealth—supporting rural economies, reducing hazardous fuels, providing baseload energy, and contributing to domestic production of next generation fuels, including sustainable aviation fuel. The production technology exists. The feedstock is abundant. The obstacle is no longer innovation, but regulatory uncertainty.

Although Congress clearly contemplated forest-based biomass within the RFS's cellulosic biofuel pathway, outdated and overly narrow regulatory interpretations have prevented working forests from participating at scale. Current implementation fails to reflect modern forestry practices, discourages investment, leaves valuable biomass unutilized, and hinders forest health and rural prosperity.

EPA has both the authority and the responsibility to help correct this misalignment. By clarifying eligibility definitions, recognizing commonly accepted forestry practices, and aligning wildfire-risk provisions with modern science and Forest Service expertise, EPA can remove unnecessary barriers while remaining fully within statutory bounds. Doing so would provide long-overdue certainty to landowners and biofuel producers, unlock private capital, and support good-paying jobs in rural communities.

President Trump's Executive Orders emphasizing American energy independence, domestic timber production, and proactive forest management underscore the importance of this moment. Reforming the regulatory treatment of woody biomass under the RFS would directly advance those objectives by strengthening energy resilience, improving forest health, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

We strongly encourage EPA to use its rulemaking authority to modernize its approach to forest-based biomass and to work closely with forestry experts and stakeholders to ensure the RFS's regulatory treatment of woody biomass reflects on-the-ground realities. We also urge the Agency to support legislation clarifying the woody biomass definition to provide durable certainty for forest biomass participation in the RFS.

This is a rare opportunity to align energy policy, forest policy, and rural economic policy in a way that benefits all Americans. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to continued engagement on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Abenaki Timber Corp.  
Advanced Lumber & Plywood Supply  
AJD Forest Products  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group  
American Biomass Energy Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest Management, Inc  
American Forest Resource Council (AFRC)  
American Loggers Council  
Arkansas Farm Bureau  
Arkansas Forestry Association  
Associated California Loggers  
Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers of Minnesota  
Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.  
Association of Consulting Foresters  
Atlantic Power and Utilities  
Barrs Land Investments  
Beaver Lake Biofuels  
Ben's Urban Lumber & Slabs LLC  
Bingaman & Son Lumber, Inc.

Biofine North America  
Boone & Crockett Club  
BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group  
Buskirk Lumber company  
C2X LLC  
Calforests  
California Farm Bureau  
Campbell Global, LLC  
Carl Rosenberry & Sons Lumber Inc  
Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc.  
Castlerock Biofuels, LLC  
Clark Hardwoods, LLC  
Clark Lumber Company  
Collins  
Colorado Farm Bureau  
Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association  
Conservation Resources  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians  
Domain Timber Advisors  
East Perry Lumber Co.  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Evergreen Biopower, LLC  
F&W Forestry Services, Inc.  
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Florida Forestry Association  
Flowers Timber Co., Inc.  
Forest Investment Associates  
Forest Landowners Association  
Freres Engineered Wood  
Freres Timber, Inc  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Giustina Resources  
Gray Logging  
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.  
Hampton Lumber

Hardwood Federation  
Harold White Lumber Inc.  
Hearst Forests  
Hill Logging  
Humboldt and Mendocino Redwood Companies  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
Idaho Forest Group  
Idaho Forest Owners Association  
Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC  
Irving Woodlands, LLC  
Jamestown, LP  
Jones Lumber Co., Inc.  
Josey Lumber Company  
Keiver-Willard Lumber Corporation  
Kendrick Forest Products  
Kingwood Forestry Services, Inc.  
Krueger dirtwerx inc  
Larson & McGowin  
Laurel Creek Hardwoods Inc  
Lebanon Oak Flooring Company  
Lobb Forest Enterprises LLC  
Lone Rock Resources  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Forestry Association  
Louisiana Loggers Association  
Louisiana Logging Council  
Maine Forest Products Council  
Maine Woodland Owners  
Manulife Investment Management  
Maple Rapids Lumber Mill INC  
Maryland Forests Association  
Mason's Mill & Lumber  
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation  
Massachusetts Forest Alliance  
Mayfield Lumber Company  
Michigan Biomass  
Michigan Forest Products Council  
Mike Nielsen logging

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Forestry Association  
Missouri Farm Bureau  
Missouri Forest Products Association  
Montana Logging Association  
Mount Storm Forest Products  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Deer Association  
National Hardwood Lumber Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
New Forests, Inc.  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation  
New York Farm Bureau  
NH Timberland Owners Association  
Nistler Kowitz Logging  
North American Deck and Railing Association  
North Carolina Farm Bureau  
Northeastern Loggers' Association  
Northern Tier Hardwood Association  
NorthWoods Agency  
Nuveen Natural Capital  
Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Oregon Forest Industries Council  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Forest Products Association  
Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council  
Pheasants Forever  
Phoenix Energy  
Pierson Lumber Co. Inc.  
Pingree Associates  
Port Blakely  
PotlatchDeltic  
Quail Forever  
Rayonier  
Resource Management Service, LLC

Rhode Island Wood Operators Organization  
Ring Family  
Robinson Lake Trucking  
Robinson Lumber Company, Inc.  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Roseburg Forest Products  
RSG Forest Products  
Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society  
Savage Lumber Company Inc.  
Seven Islands Land Company  
Shenandoah Forest LLC  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
SII Dry Kilns  
Society of American Foresters  
Sorrells Sawmill Inc  
South Carolina Farm Bureau  
Southeastern Wood Producers Association, Inc.  
Southern Loggers Cooperative  
Southport Lumber  
Springfield Hardwood Products  
Starker Forests Inc.  
Strategic Biofuels LLC  
Sun Mountain Lumber  
SunGas Renewables  
Sunne Logging LLC  
Superior Pine Products Company  
Swiftsawmill  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Forestry Association  
The Langdale Company  
The Lyme Timber Company  
The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC  
The Rohatyn Group  
The Westervelt Company  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Timberland Investment Resources  
Tioga Hardwoods Inc.  
Treated Wood Council

Twin Creeks Timber, LLC  
University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources  
Utah Farm Bureau Federation  
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation  
Virginia Forest Products Association  
W.M. Cramer Lumber Co.  
Wagner Forest Management, Ltd.  
Washington Contract Logger Association  
Washington Farm Forestry Association  
Washington Forest Protection Association  
West Virginian Forestry Association  
Western Wood Preservers Institute  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Wildlife Mississippi  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
Wolverine Hardwoods  
Wood Forest Products Inc  
Wood Products Manufacturers Association

CC: The Honorable Doug Burgum, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary, Department of Agriculture