

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2022

European Parliament
Rue Wiertz
60 1047, Brussels
Belgium
Europe

To:
Mr. Christian-Silviu Busoi, MEP
Chair, ITRE Committee
CC:
Mr. Markus Pieper, MEP
Mr. Nicolas Gonzalez Cesares, MEP
Mr. Christophe Grudler, MEP
Mr. Evzen Tosenovsky, MEP

Dear Colleagues:

We represent districts that are home to abundant and growing forestry resources in the US, providing forest products to the world, including sustainable bioenergy to the EU. Thanks to sustainable forest management practices and strong global markets for forest products, our forests in the US have grown steadily, serving as carbon sink and storage, all the while meeting global demand for wood products. We are concerned the Environment (ENVI) Committee’s opinion to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED), currently pending before the Committee on Industry, Research, and Technology (ITRE), may unintentionally undermine trade between the US and EU and negatively impact US forest health.

Our specific concern is related to the definition of “primary woody biomass” and its exclusion as a renewable energy source. We understand that the ENVI sought to prevent high-value wood fiber from being used for biomass. However, the definition of “primary woody biomass” includes common bioenergy feedstocks, such as tops, branches, damaged or twisted wood, low-value pulpwood, and thinnings—products that are lower-value and cannot be used for long-lived solid wood products. The risk that high-value wood, like saw-logs, from the US will be used for bioenergy is nonexistent and already addressed within the RED through both specific restrictions and sustainability criteria that ensure sustainable harvesting and sourcing practices across the supply area. Additionally, the ENVI opinion **runs counter to recommendations from the world’s leading scientific bodies who have noted that sustainable bioenergy is necessary for achieving climate goals**, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹ and the International Energy Agency (IEA)². We believe the additional restrictions proposed by the ENVI Committee are contrary to our shared goals and will severely reduce the availability of sustainable bioenergy.

At this critical time, we must all work together to address our nations’ closely shared energy and climate priorities. We urge you to reject the ENVI opinion restricting “primary woody biomass”, which would place the EU’s renewable energy supply at risk and limit the ability of the US and the EU to partner on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Earl L. “Buddy” Carter
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/renewable-energy-sources-and-climate-change-mitigation/bioenergy/>

² <https://www.ieabioenergy.com/>

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
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Dan Newhouse
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Tom O'Halleran
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
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Pete Stauber
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Richard Hudson
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Cliff Bentz
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Michael Guest
Member of Congress