



October 14, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins Secretary
of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretaries Rollins and Bessent,

As the Administration works to finalize the forthcoming agricultural assistance package, we, the undersigned Commissioners and Secretaries of Agriculture, respectfully urge you to ensure that the nation's forestry and timber industries are included in any relief provisions to help address ongoing economic pressures and persistent unfair foreign trade practices.

We commend the Administration for its recent actions aimed at strengthening America's timber sector, including the Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production order and the Adjusting Imports of Timber, Lumber, and Derivative Products order. These measures have provided much-needed stability and optimism in timber-dependent communities and have laid the foundation for renewed growth, investment, and competitiveness.

Even with these meaningful steps, the challenges facing our timber producers remain significant. Persistent high interest rates have slowed housing construction and reduced demand for wood products, while supply chain disruptions continue to raise costs and complicate operations. Unfair foreign competition has further weakened markets for domestic timber, leaving wood-using mills and landowners struggling to stay afloat. Additionally, international compliance requirements — like the European Union's Deforestation Regulation — are adding uncertainty and potential barriers to U.S. exports, despite America's sterling record of sustainable forest management.

Forestry and timber production are vital to our states' rural economies. These industries sustain hundreds of thousands of jobs, drive local tax bases, and support small businesses across our rural communities. Beyond their economic impact, they also play a critical role in responsible land management by enhancing forest health and mitigating wildfire risks. The closure of wood-using mills and reduced production have led to job losses, reduced market access for small landowners, and declining local revenues. These impacts are felt throughout our communities — affecting everything from family livelihoods to forest stewardship.

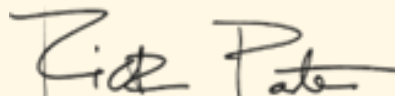
Including forestry and timber in the upcoming agricultural assistance package would help sustain rural economies and employment, stabilize markets, and strengthen one of America's most important renewable resource industries. Equitable support for forestry producers, alongside other agricultural sectors, would reaffirm the Administration's commitment to ensuring that all parts of our agricultural economy have the tools they need to endure and thrive.

We deeply appreciate your continued leadership and partnership in supporting our farmers, ranchers, and foresters. Working together, we can ensure that the forestry and timber industries remain strong.

Sincerely,



Wilton Simpson
Florida Commissioner of Agriculture




Rick Pate
Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries



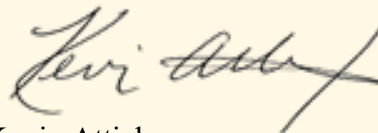
Tyler Harper
Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture



Jonathan Shell
Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture



Mike Strain, DVM
Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture
and Forestry



Kevin Atticks
Maryland Secretary of Agriculture



Steve Troxler
North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture



Hugh Weathers
South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture



Sid Miller
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture



Matthew Lohr
Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry



Kent Leonhardt
West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture