

March 23, 2021

Thomas Vilsack  
Room 200-A  
Jamie L. Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Secretary Vilsack:

The undersigned organizations urge you to release the entire \$200 million in assistance for timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted logging businesses and log haulers. Mill curtailments and closures during 2020 have resulted in less demand for wood fiber. The American Loggers Council estimates that these reductions resulted in a \$1.8 billion loss to logging businesses. Many logging businesses reduced production and idled logging equipment and trucks. Logging is a high-volume low margin business. A minor reduction in timber volume harvested can quickly result in a financial loss. These losses are realized even when equipment loans or leases are still due to financial lenders.

Logging businesses are critical to the wood supply chain. Without a healthy and viable logging workforce, the entire wood supply chain becomes inefficient and negatively impacts the forest products sector from landowners to paper to solid wood products. As paper markets recover, the financial relief provided by Congress is critical to provide a bridge for logging businesses that experienced financial losses because of the pandemic.

We urge you to make immediately available the entire \$200 million in logger relief assistance provided by Congress.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Deb Hawkinson, President  
Forest Resources Association



Danny Druitor, Executive Vice President  
American Loggers Council

**The Undersigned Associations Support this Letter:**

1. Alabama Forestry Association
2. Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group
3. American Forest Resource Council
4. Arkansas Forestry Association

5. Arkansas Timber Producers Association
6. Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers of Minnesota
7. Associated Logging Contractors, Inc. – Idaho
8. Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.
9. Decorative Hardwood Association
10. Empire State Forest Products Association
11. Federal Forest Resource Coalition
12. Florida Forestry Association
13. Forestry Association of South Carolina
14. Georgia Forestry Association
15. Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
16. Hawaii Forest Industry Association
17. Louisiana Loggers Association
18. Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association
19. Massachusetts Forest Alliance
20. Michigan Association of Timbermen
21. Minnesota Forest Industries
22. Minnesota Timber Producers Association
23. Mississippi Loggers Association
24. Missouri Forest Products Association
25. National Association of State Foresters
26. National Woodland Owners Association
27. New York Logger Training, Inc.
28. North Carolina Forestry Association
29. Northeastern Loggers' Association
30. Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.
31. Oregon Women in Timber
32. Pennsylvania Forest Products Association
33. Pennsylvania Forestry Association
34. South Carolina Timber Producers Association
35. Southeastern Wood Producers Association
36. Southern Loggers Cooperative
37. Tennessee Forestry Association
38. Texas Forestry Association
39. Texas Logging Council
40. Virginia Forestry Association
41. Washington Contract Loggers Association
42. West Virginia Forestry Association
43. West Virginia Loggers Council