



October 15, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
United States Congressman
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

For generations, forestry has been the backbone of economies, communities, and families across the Southeast, supporting countless jobs and generating billions in economic impact each year. In recent months, significant shifts in the market, regulatory barriers, and uncertainty in trade policy have contributed to mill closures throughout the region and unprecedented challenges for our forestry industry.

As Speakers of the House from Southeastern states that together represent a large share of our nation's forestry production, we respectfully request your support to advance the following priorities that will provide immediate and urgent relief to an industry in crisis:

First, we encourage you to advocate for European Union approval to use Sulfuryl Fluoride (SF) to fumigate Southern Yellow Pine wood chips in break bulk ships for export to the European Union market. The European Union does not currently permit the use of SF, the only commercially viable fumigant, on board vessels. This regulation represents one of the most significant barriers to trade impacting U.S. pine wood exports.

Secondly, under current U.S. trade policy, products and shipments from U.S. exporters are becoming stuck en route to their destination due to immediately imposed tariffs. Establishing a 90-day notice period for any tariffs going into effect that would have an impact on the flow of forest products into or out of the U.S. would drastically improve market stability and predictability.

Next, the Asian market's ban on log imports from the U.S. has closed off a significant market opportunity for the Southeast's forest sector. Pushing for the current administration to work toward reopening the Asian market for U.S. logs and chips through ongoing trade negotiations is crucial for increasing demand in the short term for U.S. Forest products.

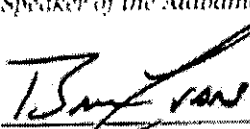
Finally, the Transshipment Clause gives the U.S. Customs and Border Protection the power to investigate the import origins of a product and apply a higher tariff if paperwork claiming materials are of a certain origin doesn't hold up. Clarifying language is needed to assure our trading partners of the certainty of this tariff exemption if the origin of raw materials is from the U.S.

We look forward to our continued collaboration as we work to secure the future of one of our nation's most vital industries.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Ledbetter
Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives



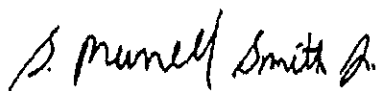
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Summary: U.S. Forestry Market Opportunities and Policy Proposals

Push for the European Union to Allow Sulfuryl Fluoride (SF) use on Vessels - We encourage you to advocate for European Union approval of a 12–36-month trial run to use SF to fumigate Southern Yellow Pine wood chips in break bulk ships for export to the EU market. The EU does not currently permit the use of SF (the only commercially viable fumigant) on board vessels. This regulation represents one of the most significant barriers to trade impacting U.S. pine wood exports.

- In 2022, the EU imported \$5.9B of logs and woodchips, 83% of which were from within Europe, while Russia and Belarus once supplied 13% before being banned.
- U.S. log and woodchip exports make up less than 0.1% of the EU's market due to fumigation regulations.
- However, the U.S. supplies \$1.9B of wood pellets (which don't require fumigation), or 43% of the EU/UK market, showing the growth potential for log and woodchip exports if fumigation barriers were removed.

Advocate for Tariff Consistency and Predictability - Under current U.S. trade policy, products and shipments from U.S. exporters are becoming stuck en route to their final destination due to immediately imposed tariffs. Establishing a 90-day notice period for any tariffs going into effect that would have an impact on the flow of forest products into or out of the United States would drastically improve market stability and predictability.

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United States Congressman
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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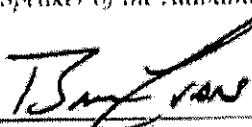
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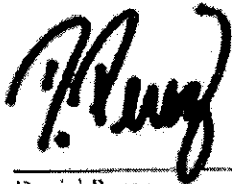
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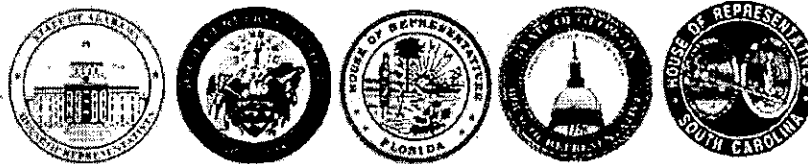
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United States Congressman
1533 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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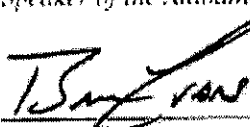
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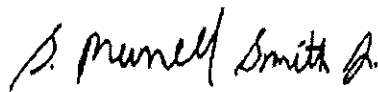
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United States Congressman
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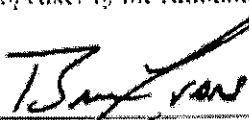
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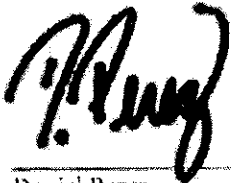
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The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senator
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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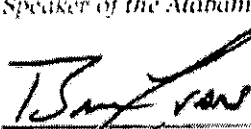
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United States Senator
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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