



**FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL™**  
**UNITED STATES**

*The mark of responsible forestry*  
FSC® F000232

November 10, 2015

Dear Secretary Moniz and Administrator McCarthy:

We write today on behalf of thousands of American businesses, forest owners, and environmental leaders to say thank you.

We recently learned that the US Environmental Protection Agency issued new “Recommendations of Specifications, Standards and Ecolabels” to guide federal purchasers in their efforts to meet the objectives of Executive Order 13693, which promotes “sustainable acquisition and procurement of products and services by federal agencies.”

For lumber and wood, the EPA is now recommending Forest Stewardship Council certified products, which we greatly appreciate. You can feel confident in having chosen the most rigorous certification available today.

As you likely know, deforestation and forest degradation cause more carbon emissions globally than the entire transportation sector. Simply put, there is no solution to the climate crisis without healthy, responsibly managed forests. And for businesses and civil society organizations across the United States, the Forest Stewardship Council is the gold standard for responsible forest management.

The Forest Stewardship Council is a voluntary, market-based system that relies on demand from large purchasers to create an incentive for forest managers to go beyond legal requirements alone in the way they protect environmental and social values in their forests. As you well know, there is no larger purchaser than the federal government.

In the months ahead, the Forest Stewardship Council is available to help federal agencies specify and procure FSC-certified products that meet the new guidelines. Please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Once again, please accept our deepest thanks, appreciation and support. It is through actions like yours that we can both grow our economy and protect our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Corey Brinkema  
President