March 22, 2023

Dear President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau,

As more than eighty organizations and scientists from both Canada and the United States, we are writing to urge your governments to transparently account for and report on greenhouse gas emissions from industrial logging. While we applaud your governments’ commitment to 2030 climate targets and stated support of natural climate solutions, the fact that emissions from industrial logging are not separately and transparently reported jeopardizes the integrity of these 2030 targets and hinders the advancement of truly ambitious forest protection policies.

Transparent and accurate reporting of greenhouse gas emissions is the bedrock of scientifically driven climate policy. Annual greenhouse gas inventories are the foundation from which countries both chart progress toward Paris Agreement targets and derive information about appropriate policy measures to reduce the impact of high-emitting sectors and transition to more sustainable economies. Unfortunately, both Canada and the United States’ inventories have a substantial reporting gap, omitting clear and transparent reporting on the impact of industrial logging.

Industrial logging\(^1\) is a high-emitting sector, with a climate impact on par with that of other sectors included in the inventories. In Canada, the logging industry clearcuts more than 550,000 hectares of forest each year,\(^2\) much of this in high-carbon primary forests. A recent conservative estimate, based on government data, placed the logging industry’s 2020 net emissions at approximately 75 Mt CO\(_2\) annually—roughly equal to emissions from Canada’s oil sands production.\(^3\) In the United States, the Forest Service found that “timber harvesting, and not land use change or fire, was the largest source of gross emissions from U.S. forests between 2006 and 2010.”\(^4\)

Despite the logging industry’s status as a high-emitting sector, the U.S. and Canadian inventories do not separately and transparently report on its climate impact. Instead, the logging industry’s emissions are subsumed under broader reporting on land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF). This practice makes it exceedingly difficult to discern what carbon

---

1 Encompassing emissions and removals associated with tree harvesting, post-harvest regeneration, and the storage and decay of carbon in harvested wood products.
Fluxes are attributable to the logging industry and, more specifically, what logging industry practices offer the greatest potential for mitigation.

The policy impacts of logging’s omission from Canada and the United States’ inventories are sweeping. It has resulted in a “climate-blind” forest decision making process divorced from the climate ramifications of the logging industry’s practices. Decisions to forgo forest protections, allow certain annual allowable cuts, or directly subsidize logging industry expansion do not factor in climate considerations because the necessary information is not available. It also prevents the implementation of incentives to drive climate-friendlier logging practices or invest in new sustainable economies.

Separate and transparent reporting will not only facilitate data-driven policy making, but also allow for the recognition of progress toward mitigating logging industry emissions. We have been encouraged by your governments’ recent commitments advancing the preservation and restoration of forest ecosystem health. As you continue to build on and implement these commitments, transparent logging industry reporting will allow your governments to reflect successful efforts to reduce these emissions and track the sector’s progress toward our countries’ 2030 climate goals.

As you meet to discuss the most pressing issues our countries face, we urge you to jointly commit to transparently reporting on emissions from industrial logging. There is significant progress our two countries can make together to advance forest protections domestically and globally. Clear and transparent disclosure of industrial logging’s climate impact will ensure the United States and Canada can lead with policy that is robust and data-driven, while modeling best practices for forested countries around the world.

Sincerely,

Anthony Swift
Canada Program Director
NRDC

Emily McMillan
Executive Director
Nature Canada

Shelley Luce
Campaigns Director
Sierra Club BC

Rita Frost
Campaigns Director
Dogwood Alliance

Michelle Connolly
Director
Conservation North

Amanda Hurowitz
Senior Director
Mighty Earth
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Organization/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyril Kormos</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Wild Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Culbert</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Canadian Public Health Association / Association canadienne de santé publique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonina Markoff</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Climate Reality Project California State Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Keating</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Rainforest Relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Culbert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Stark</td>
<td>Campaigns Director</td>
<td>Canopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Plourde</td>
<td>Senior Wilderness Coordinator</td>
<td>Ecology Action Centre*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Hayes</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Canopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Pinkerton</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>CPAWS Yukon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Harvey Locke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Hershkowitz</td>
<td>Founding Director</td>
<td>Sport and Sustainability International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Lancaster</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Healthy Forest Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Beazley</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Swanson</td>
<td>Policy Chair</td>
<td>Climate Reality Project Orange County Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Gutierrez</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Earth Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MarieClaire Egbert</td>
<td>Communications Director</td>
<td>John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Latshaw</td>
<td>Founder and Senior Scientist</td>
<td>securethefuture.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Peter Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selden Prentice</td>
<td>Federal Policy Lead</td>
<td>350 Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Gardner</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Upper Valley Affinity Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Cox</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Claudette Holloway, RN, DHA, CHE</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Doris Grinspun, RN, PhD, O.ONT</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Harvey Locke</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
André-Yanne Parent  
Executive director  
The Climate Reality Project Canada

Beth Lorimer  
Ecological Justice Program Coordinator  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Kari Bauer  
Co-Chair  
Climate Reality Project, Sacramento Chapter

Tegan Hansen  
Senior Forest Campaigner  
Stand.earth

Ali Wines  
Executive Director  
Protect Our Winters Canada

Alan Burger  
President  
BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists)

Laurel Facey  
Secretary  
Wendell State Forest Alliance

Louise Comeau  
Director Climate Solutions  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick

John Davis  
Executive Director  
The Rewilding Institute

Ashley Adams  
Stop VT Biomass

Kirstin Beatty  
Director  
Last Tree Laws Massachusetts

Will Harlan  
Executive Director  
Forest Keeper

Dr. Dominick DellaSala  
Chief Scientist  
Wild Heritage, a Project of Earth Island Institute*

Margaret Cuthbert  
President  
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society

Chris Matera  
Founder  
Massachusetts Forest Watch

Priscilla Feral  
President  
Friends of Animals

Michael Kellett  
Executive Director  
RESTORE: The North Woods

Laura Haight  
U.S. Policy Director  
Partnership for Policy Integrity

Zack Porter  
Executive Director  
Standing Trees

Gretchen Fitzgerald  
National Programs Director  
Sierra Club Canada Foundation

Kecia Kerr  
Executive Director  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Northern Alberta

Monica Bond, PhD  
Principal Scientist  
Wild Nature Institute
Meaghen McCord  
Executive Director  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - British Columbia

Gary Hughes  
Americas Program Coordinator  
Biofuelwatch

Andrew Rothman  
Wild Places Program Director  
WildEarth Guardians

Caroline Schultz  
Executive Director  
Ontario Nature

Jacqueline Avanthay Strus  
President  
Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

Mathias Rittgerott  
J.D. McCracy  
Executive Director  
Georgia ForestWatch

Chris Bolgiano  
Environmental Researcher and Writer

Aly Hyder Ali  
Oil and Gas Program Manager  
Environmental Defence

Cathy Orlando  
National Director  
Citizens Climate Lobby

Helga Guderley  
Retired professor

Antononina Markoff  
Coordinator  
Climate Reality Project California State Coalition

Christianne Wilhelmson  
Executive Director  
Georgia Strait Alliance

Blaine Miller-McFeeley  
Senior Legislative Representative  
Earthjustice

Cristina Hubbard  
Executive Director  
Forest Web

Maggy Burns  
Executive Director  
Ecology Action Centre

Peter Quinby  
Chair & Chief Scientist  
Ancient Forest Exploration & Research

Robb Barnes  
Climate Program Director  
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

Marium Vahed  
Chair  
Green Ummah

John Himmelman  
Retired professor

Karen Beazley  
Professor Emeritus

Susan Penner  
Co-Chair, Legislative Working Group  
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations
Kirstin Beatty  
Director  
Last Tree Laws Massachusetts

Martin Melendro  
Executive Director  
Yukon Conservation Society

Rebecca Jacobs  
Communications Manager  
Community Forests International

Sue Wilson  
Executive Director, Office for Systemic Justice  
Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada

Jordan Ignatiuk  
Executive Director  
Nature Saskatchewan

Deborah Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Alberta Wilderness Association

Dave Werntz  
Science and Conservation Director  
Conservation Northwest

Sabaa Khan,  
Director General, Quebec and Atlantic Canada  
David Suzuki Foundation

Julian Axmann  
Campaign Director  
BC Spaces for Nature

Joe Gunn  
Executive Director  
Le Centre Oblat: A Voice for Justice

Jennifer Woods  
Vice President  
Nature PEI

Bob Bancroft  
President  
Nature Nova Scotia

Miriam Körner  
Co-Founder  
For Peat's Sake - Protecting Northern Saskatchewan Muskegs

Cherry Robinson  
Coalitions Chair  
The Climate Reality Project San Diego Chapter

Nancy Flood  
President  
Kamloops Naturalist Club

Daniel Batten  
Liaison  
Extinction Rebellion Vermont

*Signing in personal capacity