

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

July 16, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Kelly Moore
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Administrator Moore,

Georgia is one of the largest producers and exporters of timber and forestry products, and expanding market access for Georgia forestry and timber products is vitally important to the state's economy.¹ I write to request an update from USDA and APHIS on the progress to obtain approval from the European Union (EU) for certain pest control treatments for pine wood chip exports.

Europe is a large and growing market for fuel wood, including pine wood chips, but US wood chips are restricted from the EU market due to excessive pest control requirements which add costs and limit our ability to export.² The International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC) has determined that other lower cost methods are safe and effective, but these are currently not approved by the EU.³

I ask that USDA and APHIS provide an update on the status of the ongoing work with the EU regarding quarantine and pre-shipment requirements for wood chip exports, including a confirmation of the timeline for the EU review process on approving pest control treatments for wood chips which have been deemed safe and effective by the IPCC. I also request that USDA and APHIS provide my office a briefing on this prior to the Plant Health Bilateral Meeting with the EU scheduled for September 30 in Savannah, Georgia.⁴

The EU is a potential \$1 billion annual market for US pine wood chip and log exports, much of which would be supplied by Georgia. Expanding opportunities for our timber and forestry products in the EU has been a yearslong effort, and it is of the utmost importance to Georgia's, and the country's, forestry sector that we remain vigorous in these efforts.

¹ Georgia Forestry Commission, *Georgia's forest industry is a global leader*, <https://gatrees.org/forest-industry/>

² USDA, *Markets for Wood Chips in Northwestern Europe*, (April 23, 2024), <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Markets%20for%20Wood%20Chips%20in%20Northwestern%20Europe%20The%20Hague%20Denmark%20DA2024-0004.pdf>

³ IPCC, *Sulfuryl fluoride fumigation treatment for insects in debarked wood*, ISPM 28 Annex 22, (2017), https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/03/PT_22_2017_SF_wood_ins_En_2017-05-15_AJaNMCC.pdf

⁴ USDA, *Plant Health Technical Bilateral Meetings*, (June 12, 2026), <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/trade-management/phyto/meetings>

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Thank you for your continued collaboration on this important matter. I look forward to your response by August 15, 2026.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator