



December 15, 2021

Doug McMillon
702 SW 8th St.
Bentonville, AR 72712

Dear Mr. McMillon,

We write to urge you to use Walmart's purchasing power to protect the boreal forest, which is critically important for the climate, biological diversity and the communities that rely upon it.

The Canadian boreal forest is the largest remaining primary forest on the planet. It stores 300 billion tons of carbon, provides habitat for threatened boreal caribou, billions of birds and a multitude of other species. The boreal is essential to the sustenance and culture of hundreds of Indigenous communities. Unfortunately, one and a half football fields' worth of the forest are cut down every minute to produce wood pulp, softwood lumber and other products. American companies like Walmart contribute to demand for these products.

Canadian federal and provincial regulations and compliance protocols are not preventing certain wood pulp suppliers from engaging in practices that neglect their carbon footprint, threaten the survival of species and violate the rights of the Indigenous Peoples who live in the boreal forest. For this reason, it is incumbent upon companies that purchase wood pulp sourced from the boreal forest to leverage their market power to protect the forest without adversely affecting other forests.

For this reason, we are asking Walmart to improve its global wood sourcing policy by making the following commitments:

1. Increasing the amount of forest-free fibers in your tissue products, hitting a threshold of 50% (or more) by 2025 by using recycled and sustainable forest-free alternative fibers, such as bamboo or wheat straw.
2. Reducing Scope 3 emissions by 50% by 2030, including a plan to analyze, disclose and cut emissions from land use changes (including forest sourcing) by 50% by 2025.
3. Developing and enforcing a non-compliance protocol with irresponsible suppliers and a strengthened grievance mechanism that provides a way for anyone to file complaints over violations of your company's supply chain policies.

4. Require, monitor and verify if suppliers are respecting the right of Indigenous and traditional communities to give or withhold their [free, prior and informed consent](#).
5. Engage directly with impacted communities to resolve grievances.

These actions will not only help to protect the boreal, and in so doing protect our climate and important species, but will establish Walmart as a leader in sustainable forestry. We urge you to act.

We would very much like to discuss these proposed actions (or others that the company is contemplating) and believe that we can have a healthy dialogue about our shared goals of good stewardship.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Sammy Herdman
Boreal Forest Campaign Associate
Environment America

Len Montgomery
Director, Public Lands Campaign
Environment America

Steve Blackledge
Senior Director, Conservation America Campaign
Environment America

Cc: Kathleen McLaughlin, Executive Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Walmart Inc.; President, Walmart Foundation