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MEDIA ALERT: NEW INVESTIGATION EXPOSES DESTRUCTION OF US FORESTS TO FEED UK BIOMASS PLANTS

As the dual climate and biodiversity crises continue, environmental experts have documented the devastating impact of biomass sourcing done for Enviva, the world's largest wood pellet producer, to supply Drax's burning of wood to generate electricity. Photographic evidence gathered by the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), [Dogwood Alliance](#), [Southern Environmental Law Center](#), and independent news agencies exposes logging in valuable forests and ecosystems in the US Southeast, a designated global biodiversity hotspot.

The UK is the world's largest consumer of imported wood pellets, as well as Europe's biggest subsidiser of biomass electricity, spending more than £1 billion per year to subsidise large biomass-burning power stations like Drax. The new documentary evidence reveals how hardwood forests are clear cut, with vast quantities of whole trees and other large-diameter wood sent to industrial mills to be manufactured into pellets to feed Drax's boilers. The biomass sourcing practices documented in the investigation are all allowed to continue under UK regulations and Drax's sustainability standards.

Rita Frost, campaigns director at Dogwood Alliance, has made the following comments:

"The photos do not lie. This investigation is a direct challenge to the UK government's policy of continuing to subsidise Drax because it exposes the dark reality of this industry. The US wood pellet mills that supply the fuel for Drax's wood-burning power plant are in areas that already endure some of the highest logging rates in the world, with surrounding communities suffering high poverty rates and facing the threat of flooding from climate change.

"Kwasi Kwarteng was right when he told a group of MPs that the biomass electricity industry 'doesn't make any sense'. If the UK is going to live up to its climate promises, it must cut harmful carbon emissions, not forests."

The full investigation booklet can be found here:

<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/global-markets-biomass-energy-devastating-us-forests-202209.pdf>

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