June 5, 2016

His Excellency Klaus Iohannis
President of Romania

Dear Mr. President,

We are honored to have the opportunity to visit your beautiful country and to perform in the magnificent Constitution Square at the heart of Bucharest. Romania is a rich and diverse country that has so much to offer, including its beautiful mountains and precious old growth forests; a natural wealth unique on the continent.

Over the past year, we have had the opportunity to learn about the grave threats to the world's forests, especially the damage caused by illegal extraction of precious woods for musical instruments and other products used in our everyday lives. In December, we traveled to Guatemala to witness firsthand the innovative, sustainable community forest management practices underway in that country's Maya Biosphere Reserve. We were deeply impressed by the dedication and commitment that the communities there are investing in using their forest and protecting it at the same time. Such practices are crucial in the fight against climate change, and also serve an important role in combatting illegal logging activities.

As musicians, we are committed to supporting efforts to counter illegal logging around the world and to sharing this message globally. In fact, we just released a short film about our experience in Guatemala, entitled ***Instruments of Change: Lessons from the Rainforest***. With this video, we intend to spread a message of caution and hope, to shine a light on the serious threats facing forests globally and inspire change.

We understand that Romania's forests are significantly threatened by illegal logging. We wish to express our support for Romania as you work to create a long-term model that encourages sustainable forest management, deters illegal practices, and protects the nation's internationally renowned national parks, for the benefit of the Romanian people for generations to come.

We sincerely hope to return to Romania in the future, with more time to explore your wonderful forests in person.

Respectfully,

Jesse Carmichael
Keyboardist and Guitarist, Maroon 5

James Valentine
Guitarist, Maroon 5

CC: Mr. Dacian Julien Cioloş, Prime Minister of Romania
Ms. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Minister of the Environment