

MERITA CALLAWAY

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The Honorable Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board

Re: Forest Carbon Offset Program

Ms. Nichols:

As the County Supervisor in the Ebbetts Pass area of Calaveras, the forests, both public and private, play an integral role in our community. The forests support recreation, jobs, and the environment. Allowing clear cutting to be a key component of the cap-and-trade offset will have a detrimental impact to our area.

We support timber harvests, both for its contribution to our economy and to maintaining safe communities. Yet utilizing clear cut harvests as a forest carbon offset, diminishes what we are doing in the realm of land-use, transportation, and housing.

I appreciate the challenge ARB faces to monitor and reduce GHG emissions. Ebbetts Pass will work to be part of the solution, but clear cutting as part of this will have a negative environmental impact.

I ask that the Air Resources Board weigh the impact of the Forest Protocol on the local area with the goal you are trying to reach for all of California.

Merita Callaway