

Jan 29 TFS Meeting – LW notes

Most of anti-TFS group sat around big board table with Assemblypeople at one end next to Katie Valenzuela. Richard Corey sat toward other end amidst us. Smattering of staff at table and sitting around outside. Mari Rose on outside, chimes in only in conversation at the end. We all share our points without too much conversation, and then open it up after alternatives discussion.

Assemblymembers Present:

Richard Bloom – Santa Monica

Eduardo Garcia – Coachella Valley (arrived after 30 min)

Eloise Reyes – San Bernardino (left after 30 min)

Questions/Comments:

Bloom

- (Notes that he and Reyes were on trip to Acre, too, and that it was very revealing. Also notes he has spent time in Peruvian Amazon)
- How do communities learn about these issues? We deal with complex issues all the time, and we have staff to support us in that. Do these communities have the equivalent?
- California can't be that big a player on the demand side – we can play a more meaningful role with the TFS relative to our market share. *So, if we can make it work (and I recognize that you disagree with this premise), this is an important place for us to intervene.*
- How important do you think it would be for us to raise awareness? [answer: important]
- I had no idea that Ecuador supplied that much crude to us, that all that was coming from the Amazon.
- Asked some questions about Socio Bosque – (I feel like some of the points put forward by Kevin on this might not have been very convincing for them...seemed skeptical).
- Asked Tamra whether the leaders she was with who were threatened had been threatened for opposing REDD+, as she elided these things (thought this also didn't help us).
- Asked Jeff for more specifics on how procurement enforcement would happen (note that Jeff met with Kalra (San Jose) before this meeting and Kalra wanted to bring this forward, so I think that's why Jeff was shy on specifics). Would this just be a disclosure thing?

Garcia

- I hear your point on the limitations of 3rd-party certification. How do we get to 4th party certification?
- In response to Thomas Joseph: “So it was your own tribal leaders who were selling you out?” (seemed unconvinced by his reasoning and argument – think this hurt us a bit).
- How do we address leakage?
- We will be hearing from the pro side, too. Ideally, we’d like to bring you all together to have a conversation about this, too.
- Garcia seemed excited about possibility of procurement standard; noted there are other laws with similar requirements.
- Notes their real desire for alternatives.

Corey

- Speaks only when asked to by Kathy; Garcia notes that he had “told him not to speak”
- While we were sitting here, another 5000 HA was deforested. We have to address this! We all care about this. So, we have to figure out how to address this.
- How do we develop a “gold standard?”
- How do we address leakage?
- Very friendly and thankful to us, but clearly didn’t really change his mind on anything...

Staff:

- For Jeff: How do the supply chain initiatives you suggest avoid having all the same issues in verification that you are suggesting TFS does (good question and Jeff had good answer – they will have them, but at least we are not offsetting in that context).

LW takeaways:

- Like most public sector leaders, they are set on doing what they said they were going to do. Feel *something must be done* and this is the most concrete thing before them – plus CARB has been working on it for 10 years. Add to that the pressure from EDF and these other groups, it’s hard to convince them to go a different way.
- Feel like there is space for us to make our arguments about integrity more forcefully directly with the legislators – I feel like they are not likely to be convinced here. Not only around the accounting issues, but also in the fundamental way these programs play out in the context of a carbon market, and how they don’t get at the drivers. This set of things [driver mismatch, leakage, permanence, additionality, market issues] can really help convince them more than these rather weak or more mixed stories about indigenous rights, I think.
- They want more concrete alternatives. Even though I don’t think that’s fair to put that on us entirely, I think more specifics on what a useful demand-side education campaign could look like would be good.
- Work to do to clean up arguments for a showdown w. EDF and EII if it comes to that, but would be nice to have that shot!