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Dear Sir/Madam,

As the Air Resources Board follows the legislative intent of AB 1532 and SB 535 to develop an investment plan for cap and trade auction revenues that includes goals such as a) achieve large reduction in GHGs, b) expand benefits such as employment to disadvantaged communities, and c) forest management it could be very advantageous to learn from the lessons of our best managed family forests and extend the approaches to the many family forest owners who could become an even larger part of climate change mitigation by growing more trees and producing building products and energy that will replace fossil fuel intensive substitutes.

Investing cap and trade auction revenues in programs such as the ‘Starting Your Forest Management Plan’ (http://ucanr.edu/sites/forest_learning/) that focus on enhancing stewardship on family forests where they have historically mixed both employment-generating harvests with high levels of environmental protection (since it is their ‘backyard’) could provide dual streams of benefits to society while empowering forest owning Californians to increase the climate benefits associated with their forests in the long term.

As we have learned more about the measured benefits of harvested wood products from sustainable forestry practiced in California, it is clear that many of the initial assumptions about wood product use efficiency were severe underestimates ([Stewart and Nakamura 2012](#)). Research with actual harvests undertaken under the very stringent California Forest Practices Act has shown, efficient collection and use of wood products in buildings as well as for energy from sustainably managed working forests can provide multiple environmental and economic benefits.

Simply increasing our investments in forest conservation may increase reserved forest areas but many researchers have concluded the carbon in unmanaged forests may decline with climate change ([van Mantgem et al. 2009](#)). Supporting sustainable family forests would also support resource managers with strong personal links to resilient forests and the ability to introduce appropriate management responses.

References

Stewart, William C., and Gary Nakamura. 2012. Documenting the full climate benefits of harvested wood products in Northern California: Linking harvests to the U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory. *Forest Products Journal* 62 (5):340-353.

van Mantgem, Phillip J., Nathan L. Stephenson, John C. Byrne, Lori D. Daniels, Jerry F. Franklin, Peter Z. Fule, Mark E. Harmon, Andrew J. Larson, Jeremy M. Smith, Alan H. Taylor, and Thomas T. Veblen. 2009. Widespread Increase of Tree Mortality Rates in the Western United States. *Science* 323 (5913):521-524.

Sincerely,

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