Jason Gray

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95812

**Re: Comments on the California Tropical Forest Standard: Criteria for Assessing Jurisdictional-Scale Programs that Reduce Emissions from Tropical Deforestation**

Dear Mr. Gray:

We have evaluated the draft California Tropical Forest Standard and are writing to encourage the California Air Resources Board to endorse the Standard.

Our companies have all made formal commitments to remove tropical deforestation from our supply chains of palm oil, soybeans, beef, timber, pulp, coffee, cocoa and other commodities that are often associated with the conversion of tropical forests to cropland, pasture and plantations.

We have also come to appreciate the importance of jurisdictional approaches to deforestation, in which local and regional governments are active participants in strategies to slow and eventually stop deforestation across entire political jurisdictions—states, provinces, districts and others.

By providing clear, rigorous guidance on deforestation emissions reference levels, environmental and social safeguards, monitoring, reporting and verification, and carbon accounting, the CTFS will establish a high bar of tropical jurisdiction performance that will facilitate our efforts to contribute to solutions to the tropical deforestation challenge.

October 29, 2018

Signed:



Jeff Seabright, Chief Sustainability Officer, Unilever