

“2019, AÑO POR LA ERRADICACIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LA MUJER”

Oaxaca, México, August 27, 2019.

California Air and Resources Board,
State Capital Suite 1173
Sacramento California, 95814, USA.

Re: Support for California Tropical Forest Standard
Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

We reiterate here our support for the Tropical Forest Standard and its endorsement by the California Air Resources Board. California has been a global leader in addressing climate change and this standard is an urgently needed signal that can increase the impact of California's policy beyond its borders. As a tropical forest state, we. *understand the importance of the fight to protect and sustainably manage forests, as well as their ecological and cultural value - locally and for the world.* We are working to partner with other jurisdictions to solve the challenges of stopping deforestation and California is an important actor in this discussion.

The need to address climate change is critical, and halting tropical forest deforestation is indispensable and one of the most significant steps the world can take to be on a safer path. The conservation of tropical forests has a global reach, affecting weather events such as droughts and wildfires that are increasingly affecting California and many other global jurisdictions. California's standard will be a robust example of how to set incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity. The standard is based on sound science; it will provide a needed model for emerging markets around the world for how forest protection efforts could be recognized by emerging markets, sustainable supply chain efforts and other climate protection programs.

For years, The Oaxaca state government and California have been learning from each other and collaborating through the Governors Climate and Forest Taskforce and the California led Under2 MOU. Over the past several years, some of us have traveled to California to participate in hearings and workshops to insure respect and integration of appropriate safeguards and international tools. Some of us have also engaged with the Environmental Justice community to better understand their viewpoints and concerns.

Currently, the Oaxaca state government has promoted its Climate Change Program and its Biodiversity Strategy, with adherence to social and environmental safeguards, in which the participation of indigenous communities was fundamental.

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Forest harvesting in the hands of indigenous communities in Oaxaca has given great results and currently represents an international example. This has been joint efforts with the National Forestry Commission, which also promotes the conservation of forests by the ecosystem services they provide to the entire population.

As you can see, the TFS would be the guide to consider on the type of requisites to expect from compliance markets, voluntary markets, and sustainable supply chains to recognize our sector based forest protection efforts.

We look forward to continued collaboration and joint subnational leadership to address climate change, stop tropical deforestation and promote sustainable livelihoods. We support you to take the next step and approve the Tropical Forest Standard.

Sincerely


Samuel Gurrion Matías
Secretary of the Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development of Oaxaca.



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