

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas;
August 26 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 and Resources Board,

I am hereby pleased to address you to reiterate our support for the Tropical Forest Standard and your support by the California Air and Resources Board. California has been a world leader in climate change and has inspired governors around the world to conserve forests without stopping the growth of our economies, such as Chiapas State.

As a tropical forest state, we recognize that forest conservation has a true global reach and today, more than ever, it is important to protect and manage them in a sustainable way, respecting their ecological and cultural value, locally and for the world.

The processes that California has developed in terms of reducing emissions caused by forest deforestation, has served as an example in different ways. We are working to partner with other jurisdictions to reduce our forestry sector emissions and solve the challenges of deforestation, therefore California is an important player in this topic.

Today, more than ever, it is essential to take action against Climate Change and stop the deforestation of tropical forests, which has an effect in weather events such as droughts and forest fires affecting California and many other global jurisdictions. The California Standard will be a strong example of how to establish incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity. In recent years, we have worked together with California to ensure respect and integration of appropriate safeguards. In addition, we have committed to the Environmental Justice community to better understand its points of view and attitudes as well as to express our hope in the California International Sector as a way to provide the necessary funding for our forest conservation efforts in a way that protects the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, and biodiversity conservation.

The state of Chiapas has been learning from California, collaborating through the Governors Working Group on Climate and Forests (GCF) and the Under2Mou agreement that several GCF members signed to reduce their emissions. In this regard, the State of Chiapas has made progress in building institutional structure formation by aligning public policies on climate change, creating working groups with civil society to strengthen governance in spatial decision-making and analyzing deforestation and degradation of forests in the state. The Tropical Forest Standard lays the groundwork for access to carbon markets and thus, strengthen our forest management plans, helping to reduce deforestation forestry.



In an enthusiastic way, we invite you to move forward with the Tropical Forest Standard, recognizing it as a global community. We cannot direct climate change actions without considering the deforestation of tropical forests.

We want to collaborate for the future while demonstrating that the subnational government is working on reducing greenhouse gas emissions promoting sustainable rural development, prioritizing environmental needs as well as economic development and benefiting state and municipalities affected by climate change.

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DR. RUTILIO ESCANDON CADENAS
CHIAPAS STATE GOVERNOR

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