



August 28, 2019

Jason Gray
Branch Chief, Climate Change Program Evaluation Branch
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Unilever
816 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006-2705

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RE: California Tropical Forest Standard - Support

Dear Mr. Gray:

On behalf of Unilever United States, I write in support of the proposed California Tropical Forest Standard (CTFS). As one of the leading manufacturers of food, beauty and personal care products, including Dove, TRESemmé, Vaseline, Breyers Ice Cream, Hellmann's and Lipton, Unilever is committed to removing 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. Both public and private sector action and the support of civil society are needed to enable us to produce more food, and protect forests and those whose livelihoods depend on them. We cannot succeed if we do one without the other.

By providing clear, rigorous guidance on deforestation emissions reference levels, environmental and social safeguards, along with 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.

We appreciate the Board's work to provide standard that sends a strong signal to value the preservation of tropical forests and ensures rigorous social and environmental safeguards for indigenous peoples and local communities.

Sincerely,

Stefani Millie Grant
Senior Manager, External Affairs & Sustainability
Unilever United States