Governor Newsom, the California Air Resources Board, Mary Nichols - Chair,

My name is Janice Schroeder. I have been a California resident since 1979, an environmental activist since 1980, and a core member of the West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs (Alliance) since 2005.

I write on behalf of the Alliance to urge you to reject the California Tropical Forest Standard (TFS), which should not be adopted by any out-of-state entities like the International Commercial Aviation Organization.

Research has found that cap-and-trade and offsets do not have a substantial impact in reducing global warming. Instead, tropical forest carbon offsets lack social and environmental integrity, pose unacceptably high risks of violating indigenous and human rights, and are impossible to police across national borders.

Please consider this letter sent on May 8, 2019 by the following legislators: Honorables Wieckowski, Monning, Allen, Friedman, and Garcia.

“..ARB should undertake an independent review of the U.S. Forest Protocol that is conduced by technical experts who lack financial conflicts of interest with buyers and sellers in the state’s forest offsets program. Such a review should include a careful analysis of leakage issues as well as whether projects under the protocol are producing reductions that are additional to what would be expected under business-as-usual conditions in the absence of the offsets program.”

Throughout the world, independent research and reviews have shown that carbon offsets are just a way for polluters to try and buy their way out of reducing emissions. As the Amazon burns, it is more clear that we do not have time for false solutions to climate change like carbon trading and carbon offsets, and we must immediately reject the TFS and demand that the Governors' Climate and Forest Taskforce cease and desist from further promotion of any market based policies including offsets.

To protect our planet, all of its inhabitants, the water, air and soil I urge you to reject the California Tropical Forest Standard.

Sincerely,

Janice Schroeder - Core member

West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs

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