

From: [Ted Smith](#)
To: [ARB Clerk of the Board](#)
Subject: Notice of Public Meeting to Consider Endorsement of an Updated California Tropical Forest Standard - Opposition to the TSF offsets standard
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 5:23:00 PM

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August 28, 2019

To Governor Newsom and Mary Nichols, Chair of the California Air Resources Board

My name is Ted Smith. I am a California resident, a retired lawyer and a long time environmental justice activist. I am the founder of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition as well as the Electronics TakeBack Coalition and the International Campaign for Responsible Technology.

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

As the coordinator of an international network that works to promote a more sustainable global electronics industry, I want to inform you that in my opinion carbon offset policies and the adoption of this standard could cause even more environmental degradation to poor people in the U.S. as well as throughout the world.

Research has found that cap-and-trade and offsets do not have an 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. As the Amazon and other tropical forests go up in smoke, we need bold action to protect the future rather than mere cosmetic bandaids that don't solve the problem

Another reason why the Governor and CARB should reject the TFS is that there has been no independent review. In a letter sent on May 8, 2019 the following legislatures Honorables Wieckowski, Monning, Allen, Friedman, and Garcia wrote, "...ARB should undertake an independent review of the U.S. Forest Protocol that is conducted 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 scam 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 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.

I hope you will listen to the many voices that are united in our opposition to this policy. Thank you.

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