

**From:** [pamela lee](#)  
**To:** [ARB Clerk of the Board](#)  
**Cc:** [Pam Lee](#)  
**Subject:** California Tropical Forest Standard - direct link is not working  
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To Governor Newsom, the California Air Resources Board, Mary Nichols - chair,  
My name is Pam Tau Lee, I am a California resident, long time environmental justice, community and labor activist, founding member of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, past member of the sub-committee on public participation of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, retired environmental and occupational health educator and researcher at the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at UC Berkeley, world citizen concerned for our future generations and Mother Earth.

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 chairperson of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - US, I inform you that carbon offset policies and the adoption of this standard could cause danger and violence to the indigenous in the Philippines, protectors of their land and forest. Today the Philippines ranks as the #1 deadliest country in the world for environmentalists which includes the indigenous activists.

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.

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.

In unity to protect the sky,  
Pam Tau Lee, chair International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - US  
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