

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

September 6, 2007

Ms. Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Support for Adoption of the California
Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols

Dear Chair Nichols:

As California legislators, we strongly encourage you to adopt the California Climate Action Registry (the Registry) Forest Protocols consistent with their founding statutory principles. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 32, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has authority and direction to design and implement actions that meet the state's greenhouse gas reductions goals. The adoption of the Forest Protocols would support this directive.

The California Air Resources Board should adopt the Registry Forest Protocols pursuant to their enabling legislation. In 2002, the California legislature gave direction to the Registry, through Senate Bill 812, to develop greenhouse gas reduction protocols for the forest sector based on several key principles. These principles are minimum requirements that would ensure that specified forest activities (reforestation, conservation and conservation-based forest management) exceed mandatory law and regulations, foster permanent emission reductions through the use of conservation easements, and promote and maintain native species and natural forest conditions. While the Registry's statute is due to sunset at the end of this year, we request that CARB uphold these standards when it adopts the Registry's Forest Protocols, since they also support the AB 32 requirements of "real, permanent and quantifiable" emission reductions.

As you know, CARB has the authority to develop a greenhouse gas registry for all relevant sectors, and adoption of the Registry's Forest Protocols would be a good first step toward the inclusion of the forest sector in overall state climate policy. These protocols provide a credible and standardized greenhouse gas accounting platform that would complement a variety of climate policies designed to achieve and quantify greenhouse gas reductions from this sector.

We commend CARB for all its work to implement AB 32 and hope this letter provides the encouragement and guidance necessary for CARB's consideration and adoption of the Registry's Forest Protocols.

Sincerely,

Daniel St
Eloise Alquist
Colonic Romero
Mark D S L
Loni Hancock

Ella Cortell
Patricia Higgins
Janet Huffer
Wilmer Amine Carter

Christine Kelpe
Shirley Kuehl
Jane Jones
Patty Benz
Liz Saldaña

J. R. L.
Alex Papella
Shirley Brown
Ray de Leon
Clark Lewis

