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VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

California Air Resources Board
Chairperson Nichols and Members
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**Re: Support for Endorsing the California Registry's Forest
Protocols**

Dear Chairperson Nichols and Members of the Air Resources Board:

I am writing to support CARB's endorsement of the Forest Protocols for use as a voluntary early action measure. AB 32 creates an enormous opportunity to utilize California's forestlands to make a significant and lasting difference for our climate. As a practicing land use and environmental attorney with eight years experience in forestry issues, I believe that these Protocols represent a credible and effective framework for including forests in California's climate policy.

California is losing 35,000 acres of forestland each year to development and other non-forest uses. In addition to losing valuable habitat, watersheds, and open space, forestland conversion contributes significant amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Landowners need options that will increase the value of maintaining their property in forestry uses so that these lands may continue providing the environmental benefits we rely on for our quality of life in the face of a changing climate. The Forest Protocols give landowners a powerful tool in this regard.

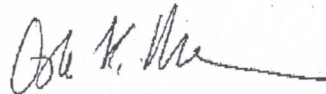
To start developing incentives and market-based programs for forests, California must first adopt an accounting framework for measuring

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forest-based emissions reductions. Based on broadly accepted greenhouse gas reduction principles reflected in regional, national and international climate programs, the Forest Protocols help ensure that forest-based reductions are real, additional, verifiable, and permanent. The principles and the methodologies in the Protocols were developed over a multi-year stakeholder process and reflect careful review and input from scientists, foresters, environmentalists and others. Thus, the existing Forest Protocols provide a thoroughly vetted and rigorous basis for developing a suite of programs and policies for forests.

If we are to succeed in reaching the State's ambitious targets under AB 32, we need to bring forests to the table. Endorsing the Forest Protocols is an important first step because it shows that CARB is committed to pursuing opportunities to engage the forest sector in California's groundbreaking climate policy. It would be a win for our forests, our climate, and the future of our State. I respectfully urge CARB to endorse the California Climate Action Registry's Forest Protocols at the next Board Meeting.

Very truly yours,



Osha R. Meserve

cc: Secretary Linda Adams, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency
Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, California Energy Commission
Susan Kennedy, Office of the Governor