

American Forest Resources Council - California Forestry Association - Conkling, Fiskum, & McCormick - Defenders of Wildlife – Ecotrust - Forest Capital Partners - Lone Rock Timber Company - Oregon Forest Industries Council - Oregon Small Woodlands Association - Oregon Woodland Cooperative - Pacific Forest Trust - Roseburg Forest Products - Mark Copeland - The Collins Company - The Conservation Fund - The Nature Conservancy - Washington Forest Protection Association - Weyerhaeuser Company

March 19, 2008

Tim Lesiuk
Chair, Western Climate Initiatives Offsets Subcommittee
PO BOX 9486
Victoria, BC V8W9W6
Canada

Dear Mr. Lesiuk,

Land owners, forest managers, wood products manufacturers, conservation groups and technical experts from Oregon and Washington are meeting regularly with the support of the Oregon Governor's staff and state agency personnel from Oregon and Washington to forge recommendations for the inclusion of the role of forest carbon in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) cap-and-trade program. We are a diverse stakeholder group representing a wide spectrum of interests.

Forests are an important icon of the west, and are intrinsic to our economies and cultures. They also play a vital role in the earth's carbon cycle and will be affected by global climate change. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that forests be incorporated into the WCI process. There are a range of opinions in the group about whether the forest sector should participate solely as a source of offsets or whether some activities, such as land use change, should be capped. None the less, the group is committed to working out protocols for forestry that can be used either in an offset or credit system.

The primary purpose of the offsets program should be to acknowledge and reward forest carbon sequestration and storage. Forest carbon offsets can provide economic incentives to avoid conversion of forest land, to promote practices that achieve higher levels of carbon sequestration and storage, while enhancing water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and other benefits. We believe this program can be developed in an efficient and cost-effective manner, learning the lessons from other efforts in the United States and around the world.

We appreciate the obstacles you face when considering forests as part of the WCI process, and accept the comments regarding forestry and land-use change outlined in the March 3rd Draft Scoping Recommendations paper. But we must note that of all the sectors discussed in the draft paper, only forestry represents a potential carbon sink. After reviewing the WCI program design principles, we are convinced that forest carbon offset projects can deliver real, permanent and verifiable emission reductions, with reliable, cost effective measuring and monitoring with the appropriate accounting for leakage. We pledge to work with you to apply these principles to forestry and make the WCI program a model for other regions and nations.

To assist your efforts, we strongly urge you to formalize a discussion of forests into a working group. Our organizations would be ready to provide the technical resources and political support necessary to make this effort successful.

Thank you, for considering our comments. We look forward to providing you with more detailed comments in May. We are excited about the potential that a forest offsets system can have in addressing this important global issue, while providing financial benefits to buyers and sellers who are committed to carbon management.

Sincerely,

Bettina Von Hagen
Ecotrust

Linc Cannon
Oregon Forest Industries Council

John Audley
The Nature Conservancy

Adrian Miller
Washington Forest Protection Association

cc: Honorable Gordon Campbell, Premier, British Columbia
Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor, Washington
Honorable Ted Kulongoski, Governor, Oregon
Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor, California

[Back to Market Opportunities Page](#)