



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 21, 2018

Dear Dr. Dan Nepstad and fellow scientists,

Thank you for your scientific rigor, and your contributions to our continually improving understanding of climate change and the vital role tropical forests have for the climate. Thank you also for your support of partnerships such as the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force and Under2 Coalition.

As you know, the goals of the Paris Agreement—to limit warming well below 2°C, and to strive to limit warming to 1.5°C—cannot be achieved without significant efforts to protect and restore the world's forests. Given the scale of carbon emissions that result from tropical deforestation, California's climate efforts must include mechanisms that help to achieve reductions of these emissions.

Accordingly, I am pleased to inform you that the California Air Resources Board has completed the draft California Tropical Forest Standard. This Standard, which has been under development for nearly a decade, will specify criteria to assess jurisdictional sector-based offset crediting programs that reduce emissions from tropical deforestation, including requirements for the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in the design, implementation, and benefits of such programs. The Board expects to finalize the draft in November, and it will be available for immediate use by jurisdictions around the globe that are taking action to reduce emissions from tropical deforestation as well as potential future inclusion within a cap-and-trade program.

I hope you will weigh in on the Standard at the Board meeting on November 15, 2018, or during the written comment period, which opened September 14th.

To decarbonize the world requires sustained and heroic efforts on the part of leaders everywhere. Thank you for your contribution to the protection of the world's rainforests, and to creating a resilient planet for future generations.

Please ensure the additional signatories receive this letter.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.