



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 19, 2008

Mr. Mike Gaudern
Executive Director
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
1775 32nd NE
Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Gaudern,

Thank you for taking the time to write and emphasize the importance of including forests in the Western Climate Initiative. I appreciate hearing from you.

Forests and forest management have major roles to play in California's strategies to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to future climate effects. As you know, forests not only emit greenhouse gases when their sequestration and storage quantities are eliminated or reduced because of land conversion, poor forest health, decay and wildfires, but they also sequester greenhouse gases benefits naturally and when properly managed. Healthy forests also provide numerous co-benefits such as diverse habitats, enhanced water quality, aesthetics and increased timber production.

We've developed some forest and climate principles that I think are fundamental in ensuring successful collaborations between state and regional climate policy strategies as we work toward our joint goals of mitigating greenhouse gases and adapting to future climate impacts.

1. **Provide incentives to enable all willing forest landowners to contribute to our collective climate solutions.** State, regional, and national initiatives should welcome and encourage the participation of all forest landowners in managing their lands in ways that provide increased climate benefits, whether by directly engaging in carbon dioxide offset markets or through other incentives.
2. **Develop strategies that discourage the conversion of forests.** Converting forests to non-forest uses results in immediate emissions and limits future sequestration opportunities. Providing financial and legislative incentives to landowners, in addition to offset market revenue, are necessary tools to promote management activities that increase carbon sequestration and storage.

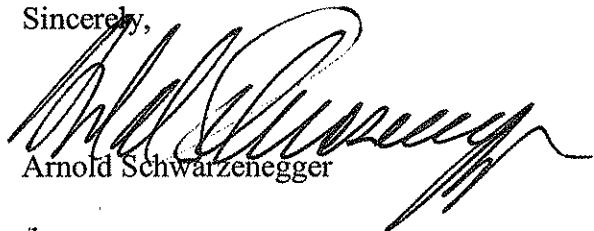
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3. **California and other states should develop forest climate policies that link easily with each other, as well as with regional and national strategies and standards.** The collaborations to develop forest climate policies with our partners in the Western Governors' Association, the Western Climate Initiative and other national and international venues serve to underscore the premise that our united actions will ultimately prove more effective than acting alone.
4. **Coordinate and integrate the manner in which carbon is tracked in our forests.** Our ability to track forest carbon across state and national boundaries will improve through a more cohesive and collaborative approach. Doing so will require better in-state, cross-state and transnational forest carbon collection systems. U.S. Forest Service forest cover maps and forest inventory analyses would be good places to start in developing a coordinated approach to analyzing and tracking forest carbon trends.

I firmly believe that any successful overall strategy to combat global climate change will require sustained partnerships in every stratum of the public and private sectors. The fruits of these partnerships will provide the foundation necessary for building a comprehensive strategy to secure a cleaner environment and stronger economy for future generations. I applaud the strides the forest industry is taking to meet these goals.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger

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