



angel
of the
animals



The Climate Reality Project
CALIFORNIA STATE COALITION



lady freethinker





Community Earth Alliance
Seven Tenths Motion Pictures Ltd.
Taking a Lead On Zero Waste

April 21, 2021

Assembly Member Ash Kalra
 State Capitol, Room 2196
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Kalra:

On behalf of our undersigned organizations, we write in support of your bill, AB 416, requiring that state contractors supplying certain forest-derived products have policies to protect deforestation and intact forest loss in tropical and boreal forests and ensure the protection of fundamental Indigenous rights. As Californians and people around the world face growing threats from climate change and ecosystem collapse, this bill is a critical step toward protecting two of the forests most vital to securing a safe, livable future.

Boreal and tropical forests are indispensable in the dual fights against climate change and biodiversity loss. These two “lungs of the earth” are among the most carbon-dense biomes on earth, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide and converting it into life-giving oxygen and buying

us critical time to transition to a decarbonized future. Each year, forests absorb one-third of our greenhouse gas emissions, making them among the most cost-effective, efficient climate solutions. Forests also harbor abundant biodiversity, accounting for 80% of all terrestrial species. Boreal and tropical forests are even linked by the migratory birds that call both home at different times of year. These birds, en route to their summer and winter forest habitats, alight in backyards across the United States, from California to Maine.

Yet the U.S. also has a far more destructive connection to these forests, driving unsustainable supply chains that are rapidly eroding these vital ecosystems. Each year, U.S. demand for products like pulp and paper, lumber, palm oil, and soy are leaving behind vast clearcut areas that jeopardize our climate, at-risk species, and Indigenous rights. U.S. trade is the largest global driver of both tropical and boreal forest loss, including accounting for 80% of all boreal forest product exports from Canada.

The international ramifications of this trade are catastrophic. About 18 million acres of tropical forest, an area one-fifth the size of California, are lost each year to deforestation. This tropical deforestation is the third-largest driver of global carbon dioxide emissions, and potential reductions in rainfall and snowpack in parts of the U.S. have even been linked to deforestation in the Amazon. Tropical forest loss is also linked to a global rise in pandemics, increasing the likelihood of the spread of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19.

The impacts to the boreal are no less catastrophic, yet too often have been overlooked in supply chain commitments and global forest protection frameworks. Each year, industrial logging in Canada alone clearcuts over a million acres of boreal forest, much of this in biodiverse, carbon-rich intact forests. The logging industry, despite claims of sustainability, is driving biodiversity declines and releasing vast stores of locked-up carbon into the atmosphere. Canada also does not require companies to respect Indigenous rights to free, prior and informed consent, meaning the more than 600 Indigenous communities who live in and rely on the boreal forest are not guaranteed the right to dictate the future of their traditional territories.

This bill would place California at the forefront of a global political and marketplace push to curtail forest loss. Companies have been facing unprecedented pressure to ameliorate their impacts on forests. Last fall, an overwhelming majority of Procter & Gamble's shareholders voted in favor of a resolution that requires the company to take measures to eliminate deforestation and intact forest degradation from its tropical and boreal supply chains, marking the first time a forest-related shareholder resolution has passed. Leading asset managers such as BlackRock and State Street voted in favor of the resolution, marking a sea change in the financial sector's approach to forest loss.

By passing AB 416, California would not only help propel this marketplace shift, but also help drive urgently needed action at the state, local, and federal levels. New York is considering a similar bill in its current legislative session, and California's demonstration of leadership could spur similar measures across other states. Moreover, both Governor Newsom and the Biden Administration have signaled their prioritization of natural climate solutions, providing a unique opportunity for California to model the robust protection of both Northern and tropical forests that is needed to forestall the climate and biodiversity crises.

With the looming threats of climate change and species collapse, we cannot afford to lose any more of the world's remaining intact forests. Thank you for authorizing this bill and your leadership on helping chart the kind of transformative change we need to craft a just and sustainable world.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Skene
Natural Climate Solutions Policy Manager
Natural Resources Defense Council



Anna Cummins
Interim Executive Director & Co-Founder
The 5 Gyres Institute



Jamie Heraver
Author
Angel of the Animals



Shira Astrof
President
The Animal Rescue Mission



Joe Sandri
Board of Directors
Archangel Ancient Tree Archive



Melissa Romero
Legislative Affairs Manager
California League of Conservation Voters



Doug Kobold
Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council



Jacqueline Pinol
Animal Rescue Advocate
The Canine Condition



Brian Nowicki
California Climate Policy Director
Center for Biological Diversity



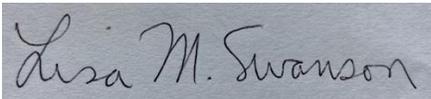
Christopher Chin
Executive Director
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education (COARE)



Andrew Stein
Founder
CLAWS Conservancy



Tara Barauskas
Co-Chair
Climate Reality Project Los Angeles



Lisa M Swanson
Policy Chair
Climate Reality Project OC Chapter



Diana Weynand
Chapter Chair
Climate Reality San Fernando Valley, CA Chapter



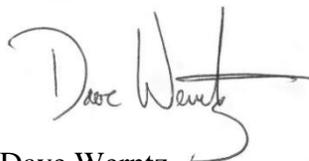
Lyn Adamson
Co-Chair
ClimateFast



Jim Schenk
Executive Director
Community Earth Alliance

Adams Cassinga

Adams Cassinga
Director
Conserv CONGO



Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest



Cary Battaglia
Executive Vice President
Digital Color Concepts



Don Terwilliger
President
Digital Color Concepts



Martin Bourque
Executive Director
Ecology Center

Ellen Montgomery

Ellen Montgomery
Public Lands Campaign Director
Environment America



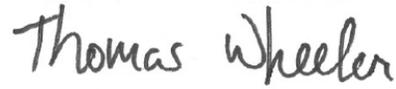
Laura Deehan
State Director
Environment California



Katelyn Roedner Sutter
Senior Manager, US Climate
Environmental Defense Fund



Rick Jacobsen
Manager of Commodities Policy
Environmental Investigation Agency



Thomas Wheeler
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Information Center



Paul Hughes
Executive Director
Forests Forever



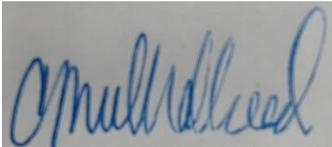
Jim Lindburg
Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of California



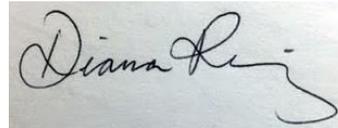
Larry Campbell
Conservation Director
Friends of the Bitterroot



Jeff Conant
Senior International Forests Program Manager
Friends of the Earth



Christine Mulholland
President
Generation Awakening



Diana Ruiz
Senior Forest Campaigner
Greenpeace USA



Richard Kouwenhover
President
Hemlock Printers



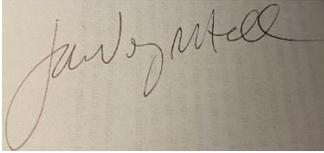
Dave Schlaich
CEO
Hopfield Animal Sanctuary



Rebecca Lewthwaite
Fundraising & Communications Manager
International Aid for the Protection & Welfare
of Animals



Damien Mander
International Anti-Poaching Foundation



Jane Velez-Mitchell
President
JaneUnChained.com



Kimberly Baker
Executive Director
Klamath Forest Alliance



Nina Jackel
President
Lady Freethinker


Amanda Friesen

Amanda Friesen
Campaigns
Last Chance for Animals

Kirstin Beatty

Kirstin Beatty
Director
Last Tree Laws



Glenn Hurowitz
CEO
Mighty Earth

Shannon Biggs

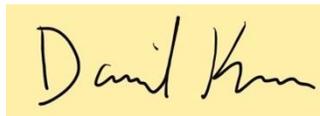
Shannon Biggs
Co-Founder
Movement Rights



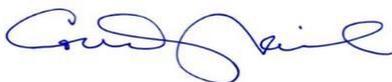
Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council



Jay Ziegler
Executive Director, External Affairs and Policy
The Nature Conservancy



David Krueger
President
Northern California Recycling Association



Courtney Vail
Campaigns Director
Oceanic Preservation Society

Karen Blumer

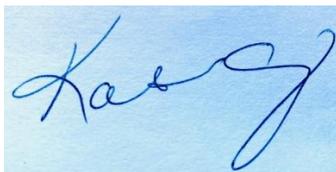
Karen Blumer
President
Open Space Council



Gary Shapiro
President
Orang Utan Republik Foundation, Inc.



Mary Booth
Director
Partnership for Policy Integrity



Katie Cleary
President
Peace 4 Animals



Dianna Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
Plastic Pollution Coalition



Scott Dillon
Director of Real Estate
The Printing House Ltd.



Carole Mastoras
Health, Safety & Environment Officer
The Printing House



Robin Averbeck
Forest Program Director
Rainforest Action Network



Eleanor Hines
North Sound Baykeeper, Lead Scientist
RE Sources



Eric Benson
Partner
Re-nourish



Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility



Katherine A O'Dea
Executive Director
Save Our Shores



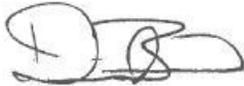
Ara Marderosian
Executive Director
Sequoia ForestKeeper

Dan Richardson

Dan Richardson
Seven Tenths Motion Pictures Ltd



Leslie Mintz Tamminen
Director
Seventh Generation Advisors



Daniel Barad
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California



Nickolaus Sackett
Director of Legislative Affairs
Social Compassion in Legislation

Karen Blumer

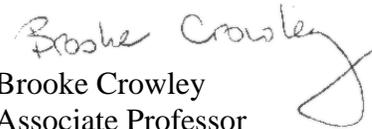
Karen Blumer
Co-Convenor
Taking a Lead on Zero Waste

Joanie Steinhaus

Joanie Steinhaus
Gulf Program Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Raabia Hawa

Raabia Hawa
Founder
Ulinzi Africa Foundation



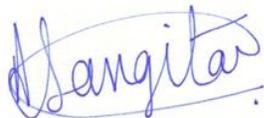
Brooke Crowley
Associate Professor
University of Cincinnati



Miriam Gordon
Policy Director
UPSTREAM



Justin Malan
Legislative Advocate
US Green Building Council Los Angeles &
US Green Building Council San Diego



Sangita Iyer
Founding Executive Director
Voice for Asian Elephants Society (VFAES)



Cyril Kormos
Executive Director
Wild Heritage



Alexandra Bede
Senior Manager, Sustainability
Grove Collaborative

Brigitta Van Der Raay

Brigitta Van Der Raay
Chair
Climate Reality Project, Santa Barbara Chapter

cc: Co-Authors: Assembly Members Bloom, E. Garcia, Lee, Friedman, Muratsuchi, L. Rivas
Co-Authors: Senators Allen, Stern, Laird