



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 to thank you for your leadership on protecting both tropical and boreal forests and the rights of the Indigenous Peoples who call them home. As Canadian environmental organizations working to ensure the protection of Canada's forests and the people that depend on them, we are grateful for your leadership in addressing the implications California's purchasing decisions have for the remaining intact boreal forest in Canada and ensuring that, where wood harvesting does occur, it is with globally leading, robust sustainability protections in place.

As Canadians and Californians are acutely aware, the dual environmental crises of climate change and biodiversity loss demand rapid, transformative change across our markets and supply chains. In the wake of unprecedented wildfires, droughts, and extreme weather events, scientists have made clear that not only do we need to transition to a decarbonized world, but also to protect the world's remaining intact forests, which have irreplaceable ecological value. This is particularly critical in Canada's boreal forest, where intact forests are a dwindling refuge for at-risk species and some of the most carbon-rich places on earth.

The Canadian boreal is both a national and a global treasure. It is the home to hundreds of Indigenous communities who continue to rely upon and steward the forest, as they have for millennia. The boreal is also habitat for iconic and threatened wildlife such as the boreal caribou, which is a key indicator whose population numbers are a barometer for the health of the forest more broadly. Billions of songbirds raise their young in the lushness of boreal summers before making an annual journey south through the United States, in a yearly migration that has been a shared and treasured link between our two countries. The boreal's value is also felt on a global

scale. It is among the most carbon-dense forest ecosystems on earth, storing more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem, and plays a vital role in the global carbon cycle.

Fortunately, preserving remaining intact forest areas, in alignment with principles of FPIC, and promoting a thriving forest industry are both possible. The overwhelming majority of Canada's managed forest areas are no longer intact and would therefore not be impacted by measures to avoid further intact forest degradation. In fact, as the marketplace increasingly demands more forest products supply chain transparency and rigor, measures to protect intact forests will be increasingly essential to industry health. An industry that does not align with the scientific values of the marketplace will find itself marginalized and incompatible with global efforts to address climate change.

Therefore it is deeply concerning that some industry actors like the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) have instead clung to tactics that mislead and deflect in order to obstruct efforts to protect intact forests. In 2017, a dozen leading scientists concerned by FPAC's attempts to downplay logging's impact on boreal caribou sent a letter to Canada's government refuting the Association's claims. Some members of FPAC have also used litigation and other intimidation tactics to silence critics of their logging practices.

FPAC's views do not reflect the consensus of our organizations and our members, who recognize that intact forest protection is both environmentally and economically imperative. Nor do their tactics speak for many other forestry companies, as well as industries, policymakers, Indigenous leaders, and communities that are working in good faith to help create more sustainable forest supply chains and expand economic opportunities from preserving intact forests.

Thank you for your leadership in helping drive the kind of transformative change that is so urgent, and for supporting the vision our groups and people across Canada have for protecting the remaining intact forests that are so vital to a healthy, livable future for Californians, Canadians, and people around the world.

Sincerely,



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