



May 13, 2022

Ted Decker
President and CEO
The Home Depot
2455 Paces Ferry Road SE
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Decker,

We are writing in response to Home Depot's [2022 Proxy Statement](#), in which the company highlighted its work with our organizations in the development of its Wood Purchasing Policy as an example of its engagement with the NGO community on forest issues. We are deeply concerned that Home Depot considers our and others' engagement more than two decades ago on the creation of this policy to be an indication of the policy's current level of rigor and NGO support and ask that Home Depot clarify to its investors that its wood sourcing practices do not have our organizations' endorsement. In fact, we have deep concerns over Home Depot's lack of forest supply chain transparency or meaningful commitments on the protection of North American forests and many critical tropical regions, and are in support of efforts to strengthen Home Depot's forest policy.

Over the past twenty years, since Home Depot released its Wood Purchasing Policy in consultation with environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, global understandings of forest ecology, climate science, and supply chain impacts, along with standards for rigorous corporate sustainability and human rights policies, have changed dramatically. The climate and biodiversity crises have clarified the urgent need to establish clearly defined protections for forests globally and the need to uphold Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities' land rights and human rights overall. In 2007, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples established free, prior and informed consent as a fundamental right of all Indigenous and local communities. In the last 20 years, new expectations to align companies' sourcing with global climate and biodiversity targets have substantially progressed, most recently in the 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

Unfortunately, Home Depot has failed to match pace with these new realities and dynamics, leaving its policy out of step with environmental necessities and globally recognized human rights. We urge Home Depot to bring its policy up to date with the international standards of 2022 and would welcome the opportunity to re-engage with the company during this process. However, until Home Depot makes long-overdue and fundamental changes to its Wood

Purchasing Policy, we will object to the company's use of our decades-old association as validation of your outdated policy.

Sincerely,

Diana Ruiz
Head of US Forests Program
Greenpeace USA

Jennifer Skene
Natural Climate Solutions Policy Manager
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Maggie Martin
Sr. Forest Campaigner
Rainforest Action Network