Dear Ms. Sheeran and Mr. Daugherty;

Please accept the attached letter from eighteen scientific, conservation, and community organizations as stakeholder input to the forest carbon studies the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Carbon Policy Office (CPO) initiated this summer. The letter describes what we believe to be the most salient aspects of the forest-climate situation in Oregon, responsive policy measures that are ready for implementation, and detailed suggestions of how the ODF-CPO studies can be adjusted to help lay the groundwork for legislative interventions during the 2019 session.

Please note that Dr. William Moomaw of Tufts University, one of the world’s leading climate scientists and lead author of three global climate assessments published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has joined this letter. As he states in a new CSE blog: “As next in line for adopting state level climate policies, all eyes are on Oregon and Washington. It will be essential for these states to protect older carbon rich forest, and to allow more younger forests to continue growing to store additional carbon. Research has consistently shown that clear cutting, short rotation times and conversions to plantations are major drivers of climate change and loss of climate resiliency. Reducing logging related emissions, halting any further loss of carbon rich old growth forests and expediting the conversion of tree plantations back into climate resilient forests are essential elements of a science-driven climate strategy.”

We would like to meet with both of you and any members of your stakeholder group who wish to attend to review these issues and concerns in detail at your earliest convenience. Please let me know what dates and times would work best for this meeting and I will pass those on to other signatories. Thank you for your time and consideration of the issues we have raised.

Sincerely,

John Talberth, Ph.D.
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