From: Stephanie Fry
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: The Forest IS the SOLUTION!
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Re: The Forest IS the SOLUTION!

Dear New York State Energy & Research Development Authority,

The FIRST true "GREEN" economy in New York State is the Forest Products Industry. But, those making the decisions about the "green" future of our state are routinely omitting the original GREEN….the forests! Nowhere near enough attention is being given in the Climate Action Council (CAC) draft Scoping Plan to how the forests, forest products and ultimately BioEnergy can provide a positive impact on climate change.

More specifically, the INDUSTRY chapter of the CAC's draft Scoping Plan does not recognize the role that paper, and wood product markets have in encouraging and supporting forest management, forest carbon sequestration and adding sequestration in durable harvested wood products. Paper and wood product manufacturing is the only industry that has a net positive environmental and carbon benefit in clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and biodiversity as a result of the forest management and forest health benefits that sustainable harvest of wood and pulp can produce.

The plan should include consideration for the paper and wood products industry use of manufacturing process residuals both in thermal and electric generation processes of manufacturing and in the production of densified wood pellets. These should be recognized as beneficial end-of-life uses. NYS's forest products industry is based on sustainable management practices with little to no residuals.

Finally, the draft Scoping Plan does not fully take action in regards to recommendations for energy intensive and trade exposed (EITE) industries. New York wood product manufacturers already compete on a global stage and have tight margins to work within. There must be more in this report on what the State will due to minimize the risk of "leakage" and retain good paying wood product jobs throughout the sector and its supply chain.

As a member of the Empire State Forest Products Association (ESFPA) which represents over 350 businesses across New York State - it is imperative that the forests are considered when finalizing the draft scoping plan. New York's forests and wood products are the single largest natural solution to climate change, and we are proud to be leaders in forest management and making products from carbon sequestering trees.

It is important to keep in mind when developing a plan about the environment to keep the environment and all the benefits it offers already, naturally as part of the plan. The CAC draft Scoping Plan does not. Any plan to enhance the environment must not harm the industry which keeps that environment healthy. The forests, wood products as additional carbon storage and substitution benefits for other fossil fuel derived products, the role of markets in keeping the forests as forests, the sensitivity of wood products leakage, forests as a low carbon

energy resource, and the overall costs of this draft Scoping Plan must be considered.

If the goals of the CDC's draft Scoping Plan is to improve the environment and have a positive impact on climate change – it makes sense to include the people that have been doing it for generations already, the Forest Products Industry.

Sincerely,
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