

Gary Gero, President
California Climate Action Registry
523 W. Sixth Street, Suite 428
Los Angeles, CA 90014

March 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Gero:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our support for the California Climate Action Registry's (CCAR) establishment of the Climate Action Reserve (the Reserve) to measure, track, and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction projects in North America for use as voluntary emission offsets.

Because of its commitment to strong environmental safeguards, rigorous accounting and verification requirements, consistent performance standards, and the use of open public processes, the Reserve has established a new standard for ensuring the integrity of GHG emission reduction projects. The high degree of credibility and transparency achieved by the Reserve is currently unmatched by any other registry. Therefore, we believe that the Reserve currently provides the best available option for project developers, and consumers in the voluntary offsets market.

This statement of support should not be read as an endorsement of the use of offsets for compliance with regulatory mandates. Instead, it is founded on the recognition of the need for credible and transparent GHG accounting regardless of whether and to what degree offsets are determined to be a viable compliance option. Further, our support for the CCAR process does not imply automatic support for future reporting or verification protocols. Instead, our support is in large part based on the opportunity for significant public input and review that the CCAR process provides. We will continue to bring a critical eye to the development and adoption of future protocols. Finally, recognizing the need for further improvements, we urge CCAR to continue its efforts to improve its program and policies, by including a wider array of project types, adopting mechanisms to ensure permanence of sequestration projects and to ensure independence of verifiers, and modifications to make its protocols applicable across North America.

Voluntary investments in emission reduction projects are by themselves wholly inadequate to stop global warming, but they can be a part of the solution. We must place mandatory limits on global warming pollution from all sources that are practical to cap, and adopt complementary policies to reduce pollution and increase sequestration from uncapped sources and sinks. In addition, voluntary measures such as the purchase and retirement of emission allowances (under a binding cap, e.g. RGGI), Green-E certified renewable energy, and Reserve emission reduction credits can deliver additional environmental benefits above and beyond such mandatory limits.

CCAR provides credible assurances that the reported benefits of the emission reduction projects in the Reserve meet rigorous environmental and accounting standards. By relying on the Climate Action Reserve, individuals and companies can take concrete action to help fight climate change with confidence.

Thank you.

Signed,

Connie Best, Managing Director
The Pacific Forest Trust

Bernadette Del Chiaro, Director Clean Energy and Global Warming Programs
Environment California

Peter Miller, Senior Scientist
Natural Resources Defense Council

David Moulton, Director Climate Policy and Conservation Funding
The Wilderness Society

Erin Rogers, Western Region Climate Campaign Manager
Union of Concerned Scientists

Rob Sargeant, Energy Program Director
Environment America

Carl Zichella, Director of Western Renewable Programs
Sierra Club