



Response to Dogwood Alliance/Center for Sustainable Economy Report - Logging Is North Carolina's Third Largest Carbon Emitter

Earlier this week, the Center for a Sustainable Economy (CSE) and the Dogwood Alliance released a so-called 'report' effectively suggesting that elected officials in North Carolina should no longer support the forest products industry. These two activist organizations have, for years, called for an end to logging and forestry operations not just in North Carolina, but also across the United States.

In fact, CSE and Dogwood Alliance have invented their own 'math' to assert that carbon stored in forests is decreasing. **It is not.**

[Data](#) from the state of North Carolina and the U.S. Forest Service shows that carbon stored in North Carolina's forests has increased since 1990, the baseline year of their January 2019 greenhouse gas inventory report. Similarly, U.S. Forest Service data confirms that both the forest area and forest inventory have increased in the Southeastern U.S. since recordkeeping began in 1953.

CSE and Dogwood Alliance also suggest, without evidence, that working forests, which make up 85% of the state's forests, are somehow a "catch-and-release" carbon source. Again, U.S. Forest Service data demonstrates that North Carolina's working forests are a carbon sink, **not** a source.

Both Dogwood Alliance and CSE – along with nearly every climate scientist in the world – cite the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the definitive expert source on climate. However, Dogwood Alliance and CSE conveniently fail to acknowledge a key fact: the UN's IPCC reports consistently emphasize that the integrated forest products industry – including timber and renewable wood energy – are an essential part of the strategy to increase forest carbon stocks and mitigate carbon emissions. In fact, every successful pathway to achieving the 1.5-degree Celsius climate goal identified by the IPCC's October 2018 report calls for the use of sustainably sourced biomass.

The irony is – when groups like Dogwood and CSE work to make it harder for private landowners to profitably grow trees in the name of 'forest protection' – they are actually pushing those landowners to do something else with their land. If landowners cannot make money sustainably growing trees, they will grow other crops. Or worse, they will sell their land for development.

Private working forests in the U.S. support over 2.5 million jobs – 150,000 jobs in North Carolina alone. If you are an activist living in Asheville, North Carolina, San Francisco, California or Portland, Oregon, family wage jobs in rural communities may not be your priority. But, for those of us in the forest products industry, we are proud of the work that we do every day to help grow the economy, by producing a renewable resource that also encourages healthy thriving forests in the southeastern United States.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Hatcher, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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