



December 15, 2021

Michael D. Hsu  
351 Phelps Dr.  
Irving, TX 75038

Dear Mr. Hsu,

We write to urge you to use Kimberly-Clark's purchasing power to protect the boreal forest, which is critically important for the climate, biological diversity and the communities that rely upon it.

As information about climate change, sustainable forestry and conservation of endangered species in the boreal becomes increasingly available, Kimberly-Clark has demonstrated the desire and ability to adapt. Participating in the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) to track and set goals for Kimberly-Clark's greenhouse gas emissions is a commendable step forward. Additionally, the goals to reduce Kimberly-Clark's impact on Northern forests by sourcing more Environmentally Preferred Fibers (EPF), if implemented, will establish Kimberly-Clark as a leader among tissue paper brands.

Kimberly-Clark's actions not only reflect the changing values of your consumers, but also conveys the company's commitment to stewardship of the environment. Thank you for the steps you have taken. Now that a [global consensus](#) is forming that the protection of primary forests is of urgent importance, it is time for Kimberly-Clark to go further.

The Canadian boreal forest is the largest remaining primary forest on the planet. It stores 300 billion tons of carbon, provides habitat for threatened boreal caribou, billions of birds and a multitude of other species. The boreal is essential to the sustenance and culture of hundreds of Indigenous communities. Unfortunately, one and a half football fields' worth of the forest are cut down every minute to produce wood pulp, softwood lumber and other products. American companies like Kimberly-Clark contribute to demand for these products.

Canadian federal and provincial regulations and compliance protocols are not preventing certain wood pulp suppliers from engaging in practices that neglect their carbon footprint, threaten the survival of species and violate the rights of the Indigenous Peoples who live in the boreal forest. For this reason, it is incumbent upon companies that purchase wood pulp sourced from the boreal forest to leverage their market power to protect the forest without adversely affecting other forests.

For this reason, we are asking Kimberly-Clark to improve its global wood sourcing policy by making the following commitments:

1. Increasing the ambition of your EPF sourcing goal to hit a threshold of 95% EPF by 2025.
2. Disclose plan to achieve Kimberly-Clark's commitment to reduce its natural forest footprint by 50% by 2025.
3. Reducing absolute Scope 3 emissions by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, including a plan to analyze, disclose and cut emissions from land use changes (including forest sourcing) by 50% by 2025.
4. Developing a best practice supplier non-compliance protocol, and disclosing a framework for enforcement of this protocol in the event of violations. This must be accompanied by a strengthened grievance mechanism that provides a way for anyone to file complaints over violations of your company's supply chain policies.
5. Require, monitor and verify if suppliers are respecting the right of Indigenous and traditional communities to give or withhold their [free, prior and informed consent](#).
6. Engage directly with impacted communities to resolve grievances.

These actions will not only help to protect the boreal, and in so doing protect our climate and important species, but will establish Kimberly-Clark as a leader in sustainable forestry. We urge you to act.

We would very much like to discuss these proposed actions (or others that the company is contemplating) and believe that we can have a healthy dialogue about our shared goals of good stewardship.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Sammy Herdman  
Boreal Forest Campaign Associate  
Environment America

Len Montgomery  
Director, Public Lands Campaign  
Environment America

Steve Blackledge  
Senior Director, Conservation America Campaign  
Environment America

Cc: Lisa Morden, Vice President of Safety, Sustainability and Occupational Health