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Memorandum

TO: Participants in Enviva and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities
(Endowment) Co-Creation Workshop, May 10-12, 2016

FROM: Jennifer Jenkins, Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Enviva LP

DATE: September 27, 2016

RE: Response to Co-Creation Workshop Report

All:

We were humbled and encouraged by your participation in and contributions to our bottomland/wetland hardwood forest Co-Creation Workshop and Report (attached). Nearly 45 experts, representing over 30 organizations, spent two and half days with us in Roanoke Rapids, sharing knowledge about how best to manage these forests for social, environmental and economic values. We learned a tremendous amount during our time together, and we hope that you found the workshop equally as valuable. This meeting, though, was really just the first step: we are committed to industry-leading sourcing practices and need your continued help to achieve our shared goal of caring for the forest landscape, now and for generations to come.

As we move forward with the next steps in our work, we want to share with you our plans for implementing your recommendations. We welcome your initial feedback before we release the report formally.

One of the things we heard from you during the Workshop was that every bottomland hardwood forest tract is different, so there cannot be a one-size-fits-all management strategy. We also learned that the great majority of these forests are working forests and have been managed for decades. Given the diversity of these forests and the legacy of human disturbance across the landscape from which we source wood, it is difficult to fit these forests into a consistent and well-established ecological typology. For example, in some instances, clearcut harvests may be the best way to regenerate the most desirable hardwood species. In other instances, a more selective harvest may be warranted to protect the ecological values of the forest. Hydrology is also critically important to regeneration in these forests: if drainage is poor, then seedlings cannot germinate and regeneration will be limited. We also learned that there is little research about the potential ecological impact of harvesting in standing water, and in fact shovel logging harvests — because they minimize soil disturbance -- may often be preferable to using more traditional harvest equipment. Clearly these are complex forests, and ideally, decisions about how best to manage them will be made by natural resources professionals on a site-by-site basis.

One of the foundational steps we will be taking based on your input during the workshop – in situations where our suppliers directly procure wood from landowners -- will be to refine our process for identifying and evaluating tracts that may potentially be considered High Conservation Value (HCV). Here is what we envision: before purchasing wood, our foresters will examine whether the tract has indicators that might potentially indicate HCV status. If any one of these indicators is present, then a two-person team including a procurement forester and a sustainability forester will visit the tract together to document its ecological and hydrological conditions and likelihood of regeneration. The end result of this process will be comprehensive documentation of the site conditions on each and every potential HCV tract, as well as a determination from our forestry staff that, if appropriate, harvest is compatible with the best possible ecological outcomes for that piece of land. As we seek to develop and implement it, this process is intended to leverage the best science possible on bottomland/ wetland hardwood forests, as well as to prevent management decisions that could inadvertently degrade HCV stands.

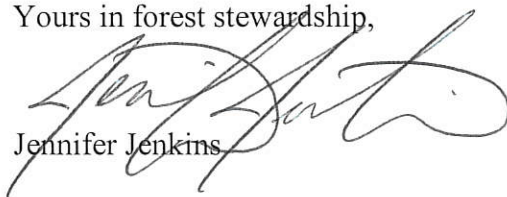
Our initial interim step of ceasing all procurement from the four sensitive ecotypes that were initially defined in Enviva's work with the Endowment – Carolina bays, pocosins, Atlantic white cedar stands and cypress-tupelo swamps – will now be augmented with the “tract-by-tract assessment” described above where there is any reason to believe that special conditions (i.e. presence of one of the 4 sensitive types or other indicators of potential HCV status) may exist.

We must emphasize that this process and the associated enhanced outcomes will only occur within our direct sphere of influence – i.e. in situations where we can make direct decisions about the primary material we will and will not purchase. We recognize that we cannot directly influence the sourcing practices of our forest products industry partners, so this process cannot apply to our secondary material where others make the threshold decision to harvest or not. As we discussed in the workshop, the work we are doing together won't solve all issues, but we do hope that it will aid in developing an acceptable norm that can be more widely applied across the forest sector.

While we have already implemented some of what we learned at the Workshop into our own sourcing plans, we recognize there is much more to do. In order to assist us with prioritization and implementation of the other recommendations we received during our time together and to solicit and consider even more input, we will convene a Bottomland Hardwood Forest Task Force for 18 months beginning in November 2016. The Task Force, with membership including a cross-section of practitioners, academics, government agencies and environmental groups, will assist us with reviewing and refining our sourcing plans and practices, prioritizing research needs, and developing options for professional training and landowner outreach. The Task Force will also, we hope, act as a liaison with other industry actors and stakeholder entities.

Again, we can't thank you enough for your enthusiastic and generous participation in the Bottomland/ Wetland Hardwood Forest Workshop process, and we look forward to continued engagement on these and other important SE US forest management issues.

Yours in forest stewardship,



Jennifer Jenkins