



Tel: (604) 882-WOOD (9663)  
Sales Fax: (604) 882-9669  
Admin Fax: (604) 513-8496  
Shipping Fax: (604) 882-9698  
Email: sales@powerwood.com  
Web Site: www.powerwood.com

CANADA: 9760 – 190<sup>th</sup> St., Surrey, B.C. V4N 3M9

U.S.: P.O. Box 432, Custer, WA 98240

January 31, 2020

Government of British Columbia  
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development  
Old Growth Strategic Review Committee  
Mr. Garry Merkel and Mr. Al Gorley

Re: British Columbia Old Growth Strategic Review

Dear Mr. Merkel and Mr. Gorley,

I am writing you as the principal owner of Power Wood Corp (a secondary manufacturer of coastal forest products), a citizen of British Columbia and as a proud father of three young children.

I had the privileged of meeting with Mr. Gorley on December 12 at the Downtown SFU campus during a consultation about the old growth review currently underway in BC. I left that meeting feeling hopeful. Mr Gorley articulated a strong desire to help expand the knowledge base we all draw on, as British Columbians, when trying to formulate our own unique opinions about forestry planning and practices. I share his belief in the importance of educating the public on the science, economics, history and culture surrounding this issue.

As an employer and business owner who relies on high quality fiber to maintain the viability of our wood processing operation, it would be easy for me to rattle off a list of jobs and economic activity that our operation supports in this Province. I assume you

have no shortage of this type of correspondence and one more is unlikely to tip the scales. I do believe the work we do at Power Wood is good for the province, both in creating economic activity and in respecting our very special resource by directing it to the highest value and most efficient end use. I recognize my bias in this area and realize I may not fully understand how my company's activities affect this province and planet holistically.

I find it challenging to overcome my own fear of loss when evaluating the issue of old growth forest management. I fear lost income. I fear losing employees. I fear losing the business my father started 25 years ago. A moratorium on old growth logging would surely bring all of those fears to fruition. I know that fear clouds my judgement.

More than my own personal insecurities and fears, I am afraid that the loudest voices are those with the greatest fear of loss. Those who fear losing their hiking trails. Those who fear losing their jobs. Those who fear losing that section of forest that has a special memory for them. Those who fear the clear cut they see from their float plane is an indication that the provinces forests are rapidly deteriorating. Those who fear global warming is out of control and will take any steps to stop it. Those who fear losing their father's business and refuse to acknowledge the benefits of change. Those who fear losing their planet.

I know there are positive steps that can be taken in our most precious forests. I believe we need to understand how carbon capture actually works in our forest and what the carbon footprint of a tree is when we turn it into a building materials vs letting it die or perish of natural causes. I believe in maintaining biodiversity in our forests that allow those forests to support industries in logging, tourism, academia and science for 1000 years, not just the next 50. I believe our forests play an important role in regulating the worlds climate and maintaining a healthy coastal forest in British Columbia is important for the whole world. I have many ideas about what is right for our forests, but I recognize my education on the matter is not sufficient for me to make recommendations on what to do.

I have great hope that the people of this province can have a conversation rooted in science, economics, history and culture and come up with a vision for our forests for the next 100 years and a set values and goals to guide us as we make important decisions into the future. I see that vision rooted in why we need to act, not how we need to act or what actions we need to take. We don't have all the answers today and we all need to recognize the importance of leaving room to adjust as we learn more. If I see that from this government, I will be happy and proud to accept that the changing province and changing planet may justify a change in forest policy.

Best Regards,



Jake Power

President  
Power Wood Corp.  
[jakep@powerwood.com](mailto:jakep@powerwood.com)  
778-558-1602

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