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British Columbia is well positioned to present progressive forest management to the world and lead in the move to sustainable environmental and social well being. The nonstop emotionally driven force to save the old growth forests is largely misguided and could end up causing more environmental harm than good.

Old Growth forests are important in that they are abundant in biodiversity; however, a second growth forest can be managed to include much of the biodiversity while also capturing more carbon and replacing non-renewable materials.

Climate change threatens biodiversity and the affects are visible here and now in front of our eyes, we are past the point of being able to maintain further vast swathes of forests in their original form while also maintaining a working forest of the scale needed to replace non renewable resources with renewable forest products.

It is now time to manage for best outcomes, we have and will lose some biodiversity, but we can keep the loss to a tolerable level while managing for the most important environmental and societal issues. We must replace fossil fuels with renewable materials and energy, worldwide forest management is one of the most important factors we have in reducing climate change.

Trees are solar powered to consume the de-stabilizing carbon out of the air and grow it into materials and energy that humans need. Trees during their later older growth period slow their carbon capturing traits but tend to support more bio- diversity, properly balancing these affects matters, lets get this right.

Embracing a plant-based economy is our only chance to stabilize our economic, environmental and social structure. We will continually struggle to balance what we ask of our forests so let us consider; who or what loses when we ask the forest to provide more for ourselves, do we need Old Growth for recreation enjoyment, emotional well being and esthetics OR are we willing forgo our most convenient short term personal pleasures and manage the forests truly for the environment and the very long term of our society.

We manage our forests for a myriad of environmental values, our ecotourism industry and our recreation wants can fit around the more important values of the forests.

We must maintain the very largest working forest we can, the larger the managed forest the broader and larger the positive affect can be.

Dan Talbot, President

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