

RE: Oral public comments at today's teleconference of the Chartered
SAB

Dave Tenny
to:
Angela Nugent
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Angela - Although I wasn't able to respond to Dr. Searchinger's comments on the effect of increased forest removals, I would like to offer some input that the SAB should consider, and I hope will be shared with them.

If what Dr. Searchinger says is true, then during the past 50-60 years of unprecedented increase in consumer demand for domestically produced forest products in the United States, we would have experienced a steady decrease in our overall forest stocks resulting in a net reduction in their contribution to reducing overall atmospheric carbon. Indeed, the concept of "timber famine" was common in the literature following World War II.

However, rather than timber famine and reduce forest carbon stocks, during this period of unprecedented demand and removal, we have increased our overall forest carbon inventory by 60%. Why? Because the practice of forestry responds to emerging market conditions and forest owners manage their forests in anticipation of future market demand, even though they cannot tell precisely which markets they will serve. A key to understanding forest carbon in the U.S. and elsewhere is to understanding the role of the marketplace. When markets are robust and optimistic, overall forest carbon increases, like we have seen in the past 60 years. However, when market signals become weak, overall forest carbon will decrease due to reduced investment in forest extent and productivity and the conversion of forestland to other more productive land uses. The bottom line is that robust new markets are beneficial and perhaps essential to maintaining stable or increasing forest carbon stocks, not a threat to it.

If it is possible, would you share this with the SAB members? Thank you.

Dave

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