



**CIVIL LIBERTIES
DEFENSE CENTER**

CLDC

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March 6, 2019

Mr. Kim Carstensen
Director-General
Forest Stewardship Council International
Adenauerallee 134 – 3113 Bonn
Germany
(By email to dispute.resolution@fsc.org)

Dear Mr. Carstensen,

This letter is to support the complaint made against Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) on behalf of Water for Citizens of Weed CA (WCWC). The complaint details concerns, over civil and human rights abuses by RFP in the community of Weed, CA. The Civil Liberties Defense Center encourages the Forest Stewardship Council to thoroughly investigate the claim, and to make sure RFP complies with the WCWC's proposed actions to rectify the situation.

The Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) is an Oregon 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to providing legal resources and education to those in the United States of America who choose to use their constitutional First Amendment Right to speak up for the rights, needs and safety of their communities, including their water rights. Our attorneys and staff support the campaign to get RFP to drop the SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against the WCWC and Weed 9. We see this lawsuit as frivolous and as a violation of the rights of these concerned citizens to voice their opinion on Roseburg Forest Products practices. CLDC routinely represents community groups faced with these intimidation lawsuits, put upon citizens by corporations to silence legal community opposition to unethical corporate practices in the name of profit.

It is worthy of note that California and Oregon (where RFP has its headquarters) have anti-SLAPP statutes to provide some protection against this type of lawsuit. Please also note in the complaint that a California Superior Court Judge has already dismissed RFP's claims on the grounds that they are unconstitutional. RFP is now appealing that decision in California State Appellate Court. We believe that RFP's attack on the constitutional rights of individuals and groups that oppose RFP's practices is in contravention of applicable laws, violating Principle 1. Their behavior also violates Principle 4: Long term social and economic well-being of local communities.

Please carefully consider and thoroughly investigate WCWC's claim against RFP. We fully support this complaint and its demands. We hope the FSC stands by its values and meets the demands of WCWC to ensure this SLAPP suit gets dropped.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Denson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charles Denson
Associate Director
Civil Liberties Defense Center