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Ms. Julie Shannon
Chemistry, Economics, and Sustainable Strategies Division
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United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

May 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-profit organization whose goal is to support the environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. FSC was created in 1993 by an international assemblage of forest products companies, environmental groups and human rights organizations to design a global framework of performance standards for responsible forest management. FSC is administered in the United States by FSC US, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FSC is a certification system that provides globally recognized standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation to companies, organizations and communities interested in responsible forest management. The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value. Nearly 1,000 member organizations representing social, environmental and economic interests determine FSC's major policies and procedures.

FSC US strongly supports the EPA effort to produce guidelines for federal procurement that distinguishes meaningful environmental claims. FSC encourages the EPA to continue this effort to recognize leadership standards and

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labels that go beyond legal compliance and represent additional environmental performance.

FSC US would like to offer the FSC certification and labeling system for review during the pilot assessment of the draft guidelines in both the furniture and building flooring categories.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process. Please contact me with any questions. I can be reached at j.wood@us.fsc.org or (612) 353-4511.

Best regards,

Jenny Wood

Jenny Wood

Forest Stewardship Council – US

Policy and Standards Manager