



November 16, 2018

Erik Leslie – Forestry Manager  
Harrop Proctor Community Forest  
Box 5  
Proctor BC  
VOG 1V0

**RE: Letter of Support – Wildfire Risk Reduction Work within the Harrop Proctor Community Forest**

Dear Erik,

Mercer Celgar hereby provides a letter of support toward the continuing efforts being undertaken by Harrop Proctor Community Forest (HPCF) for Wildfire Risk Reduction Work within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) of the HPCF. We understand that this effort supports the broader collaborative efforts being undertaken the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and other partnering organizations to reduce wildfire risks within their areas of jurisdiction. These collaborative efforts also provide other intrinsic benefits including broader access to necessary incremental fibre from the WUI. We recognize that many of these resources would not normally be available to utilize without a cooperative approach from government, industry, and environmental partners as exists through the Collaborative Community Wildfire Protection Planning group.

Mercer Celgar is interested in partnering with your organization to carry out integrated planning efforts that would treat the WUI to reduce the fire hazards to local communities as well as to utilize the fibre that is generated from the treatments that are carried out in those areas. Our specific efforts would be to provide the ability to transport pulp grade materials that are developed from the treatments to our facility in Castlegar. We are particularly interested in continuing our efforts to develop new and innovative means to improve utilization of our forest resources.

Our company is keenly aware of the growing wildfire risks around our communities and we are strong advocates for programs that promote fuel management activities that strive to reduce the risk and intensity of wildfires. We also see potential to partner with other proponents such as HPCF to utilize the forest resources that may be extracted as part of fuel management efforts.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, please contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Stan Hadikm, RPF



**Zellstoff Celgar Limited Partnership**

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