

From: Joan Obra
To: [Ma. Sandy S](#)
Subject: Statement for Carbon Farming Task Force
Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:49:48 AM

Dear Carbon Farming Task Force Members,

My name is Joan Obra, partner in Rusty's Hawaiian, a coffee farm, mill and roastery on the Big Island.

I am writing to express my interest in your task force because of a longtime awareness of climate change. As an Environmental Science major at Barnard College, Columbia University, I was exposed to climate research by the Goddard Institute of Space Studies and Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory in the 1990s.

After my studies, I worked as a newspaper reporter for The Fresno Bee, covering food and farms in Central California -- the bread basket of America. The experience prompted my husband and me to move to Hawaii and join the coffee company my parents founded in 1999.

My family is active in Hawaii agriculture beyond our farm. Ralph Gaston, my husband, is a former vice president of the Hawaii Coffee Association and the current secretary of SHAC, the Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council. My mother, Lorie Obra, was an agricultural commissioner during Billy Kenoi's mayoral term. Collectively, we participate in the Hawai'i County Agriculture Partnership, a county-wide group of producers focused on action to support the stability and growth of our industry.

I tell you all of this by way of introduction, but please note that my interest in the Carbon Farming Task Force is my own. I am not writing on behalf of any organization.

For now, I simply would like to pose some questions to you:

1. Will the Task Force issue specific carbon-farming guidelines, or set up workshops between farmers and researchers?
2. Are there any plans for government funding to help establish carbon-sequestration efforts on individual farms?
3. How does the government plan to track and quantify farmers' efforts?

I look forward to remotely attending future meetings. Should you have any questions or comments for me, please feel free to contact me in the following ways:

email:

mail:

phone:

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joan Obra