

February 20, 2021



Paul Noursi – Co-chair  
Nancy Wein – Co-chair

#### Participating Organizations

Alliance of Baptists  
American Muslims for Palestine  
Appalachian Peace Education Center  
Arab American Association of Central Virginia  
Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality  
Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church - USA  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
National Arab American Women's Association  
New Dominion PAC  
Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice  
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace  
Plowshares Peace & Justice Center  
Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine  
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter  
United Methodists for Kairos Response  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace

Devin W. Stockfish, President and CEO  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
220 Occidental Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Commencement of Public Awareness Campaign

Dear President Stockfish,

On behalf of the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR), a coalition of 18 organizations and over 10,000 Virginians, we urge you to withdraw Weyerhaeuser's lease with Caden Energix Gladys LLC, a subsidiary of Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. because your association with this company conflicts with your Code of Ethics to respect "indigenous cultures and legally recognized rights and status."

As we explained in our October 6, 2020 letters both to you and to Mr. Anthony Chavez, who is Senior Manager of Renewable Energy, Weyerhaeuser is poised to enter a 30-year relationship with Caden Energix by leasing 1,108 acres on Gladys Road, approximately 4.5 miles SW of Gladys, VA. (Lat: 37.1366°; Long: -79.1329°) on which it plans to build and operate a utility scale solar energy facility.

Should this come to pass, Weyerhaeuser, through its association with human rights violator and parent company, Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd., may be accused of infringing upon and of disrespecting "indigenous cultures and legally recognized rights and status"—the indigenous culture of Palestinians in the West Bank and that of Syrians in the Golan Heights. The latter is especially problematic because Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. has already tried to suppress several demonstrations by the indigenous communities of the Golan over Energix's unlawful installation of wind turbines that undermined agricultural, cultural and natural land uses.<sup>i</sup>

We list the following three examples to support our contention that business with Energix Renewable Energy is risky and contrary to the stated ethics of Weyerhaeuser.

1. On February 12, 2020, the United Nations Human Rights Council designated Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. a Category G company operating in Israeli occupied territories and stated that the company's activities "raised particular human rights concerns."<sup>ii</sup>
2. In January 2017, Who Profits cited Energix Renewable Energies, Ltd. for a variety of violations, including the following: Illegally seizing 98,749 square meters of Palestinian land to build its Meitarim Solar Field in the West Bank; and illegally operating a 155-MW wind turbine facility in the Golan Heights.<sup>iii</sup>

3. On June 25, 2019, the American Friends Service Committee warned that Energix Renewable Energy Ltd. owns a commercial solar farm located in the Meitarim illegal settlement in the West Bank. The report also stated that Energix has developed a wind energy project in the Golan Heights, reportedly using questionable methods in obtaining access to the land from its indigenous Syrian-Druze owners, and in violation of international law.<sup>iv</sup>

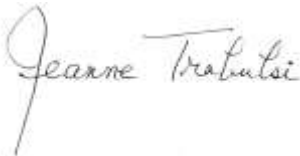
We regret to inform that VCHR has not received responses from either you, President Stockfish, or Mr. Chavez. My many telephone calls to Mr. Chavez remain unanswered. Barring any other recourse, and, if Weyerhaeuser chooses to proceed with its Energix lease, VCHR will, on June 1, 2021, launch a public education campaign to publicize the Weyerhaeuser-Energix relationship and the Weyerhaeuser violation of its own Code of Ethics.

VCHR's public education campaign is to include the following:

1. Education of the public— including human rights advocates in state, national, and international arenas— through online information sessions, petitions, and social media campaigns.
2. Education of Weyerhaeuser investors about Weyerhaeuser's violation of its own human rights code of conduct through PR Newswire and through allies in the socially responsible investment community.
3. Support of grassroots protests in and around the proposed Gladys utility scale solar array site.

Thank you, President Stockfish, for doing the right thing—cancelling the lease agreement with Caden Energix. There are many, many upstanding solar companies looking for Virginia land with which Weyerhaeuser could conduct business.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Trabulsi  
Chair, Energix Committee  
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights

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<sup>i</sup> "Syrians in occupied Golan Heights protest over Israel wind farm project," Middle East Eye, December 7, 2020 <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-israel-golan-heights-wind-turbines-protest>

<sup>ii</sup> "Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the Independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," February 12, 2020, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1475002?ln=en>

<sup>iii</sup> "Greenwashing the Occupation: The Solar Energy Industry and the Israeli Occupation", January 2017, Who Profits, [https://whoprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/old/greenwashing\\_the\\_occupation\\_web.pdf](https://whoprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/old/greenwashing_the_occupation_web.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> "Database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the Independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," February 12, 2020, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1475002?ln=en>