



Mr. Josef Kaeser  
CEO  
Siemens AG  
Wittelsbacherplatz 2  
D-80333 Munich  
Germany

October 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Kaeser,

Thank you for your leadership in deploying clean energy around the world. Your company is making a critical contribution to solving climate change and creating clean energy jobs.

We are writing today to alert you to extensive deforestation by one of your wind tower suppliers, Korindo (primarily a logging and palm oil company) and its subsidiary KOUSA, and we ask that you take immediate action. Your company logo can be seen in a promotional video released by Korindo, available at <http://bit.ly/28QhYjV>.

Our team recently undertook a comprehensive investigation of Korindo's palm oil operations in Papua and North Maluku, Indonesia. The report drew upon satellite analysis, fire data, field investigation, and photographic, video, and aerial drone footage, and showed that Korindo is systematically bulldozing the rainforest and setting illegal fires to clear land for palm oil plantations. Korindo has cleared more than 50,000 hectares of natural forest for palm oil, and even more for its extensive logging operations. And its clearing is accelerating: Since 2013, Korindo cleared 30,000 hectares of forest and had 894 fire hotspots on its concessions. The company has also taken land from indigenous communities. We hope you will read the investigation and look at the photos and videos, which are available at [www.mightyearth.org/burningparadise](http://www.mightyearth.org/burningparadise).

The investigation received widespread media coverage in major news outlets around the globe, including The Wall Street Journal, Guardian, BBC, CNN and many others. Under questioning by reporters at a news conference in Jakarta, Korindo admitted to burning, which is a violation of Indonesian law. The articles and video documenting this are all available at [www.mightyearth.org](http://www.mightyearth.org).

The Indonesian government announced that it has launched an official investigation into Korindo's activities. Korindo's plywood and timber businesses have also been associated with extensive deforestation and unsustainable practices.

Korindo is something of an outlier in the palm oil industry today. Companies representing the overwhelming majority of global palm oil trade have announced strong forest conservation and human rights policies in recent years. In contrast, Korindo lacks any company-wide sustainability policies, has failed to take any meaningful action in response to the report (even when pressed to do so by their customers), and shows every sign of continuing business as usual.

As a result, Korindo's top palm oil customers have already stopped buying from them, including Wilmar, Musim Mas, IOI, and ADM, and pressure from wood products and paper customers is mounting. In addition, dozens of major brand name companies such as Unilever, Nestlé, and Kellogg's have committed to ensuring that Korindo is excluded from their supply chains.

We are writing to you today to ask that you join these companies in ending your business with Korindo until it ends its deforestation, returns customary lands to local communities, and resolves its serious legal issues. As I'm sure you know, we have long been advocates for the rapid growth of clean energy. We also know that not every manufacturer has a perfect record of environmental performance, and that involvement in the wind industry is a way to start cleaning up their operations. However, Korindo's actions are so egregious that we believe this is a special case.

As our report documents, the purchase of Korindo's wind turbines is financing the deforestation and burning of some of Indonesia's last large intact rainforests, which is exacerbating climate change. Globally, deforestation accounts for ten percent of the world's heat-trapping emissions. Korindo is also destroying habitat for endangered species like tree kangaroos and birds of paradise and jeopardizing Papua's indigenous communities. Korindo also has been subject to serious allegations of labor abuse.

As such, we believe that continued direct or indirect purchases from Korindo, KOUSA, or other subsidiaries and affiliates strongly outweighs the environmental benefit these wind towers provide. **We therefore ask that, consistent with your company's commitments and mission to drive sustainability, you immediately announce a suspension of purchases from Korindo, KOUSA, and any of its subsidiaries and affiliates.**

Doing so will help protect the rainforest, indigenous communities, and address climate change, and could help persuade Korindo to join the rest of the palm oil industry in moving in a more environmentally and socially responsible direction. It will also help your customers continue to feel confident they are buying truly clean energy without connection to deforestation or wildlife extinction. We are planning to update media and stakeholders with a list of companies that are still doing business with Korindo on November 8th, and hope that you might be able to act before then. Please send replies to Deborah Lapidus, Mighty's Campaign Director, at [Deborah@mightyearth.org](mailto:Deborah@mightyearth.org) or call 971-240-4010.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent case. We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further. We invite you to read our investigation at [www.mightyearth.org/burningparadise](http://www.mightyearth.org/burningparadise). We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Anselmus Amo  
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