

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2016

**Amal-Lee Amin**  
Division Chief  
Climate Change Division  
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector  
Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20577  
USA  
Tel: + 1 (202) 623-1924  
Cell: +1 (202) 403 7537  
[www.iadb.org/climatechange](http://www.iadb.org/climatechange)

**Ana María Rodríguez-Ortiz**  
Manager, Institutions for Development  
Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20577  
USA

Dear Mrs. Amal-Lee Amin and Ana Maria Rodriguez-Ortiz,

We are writing in support of “*The Yoro Biological Corridor Initiative: Renewable Energy Technology for Coffee Processing and Export & Forest-Friendly Production in Yoro, Honduras: the “Yoro Model,”*” for which a proposal was submitted to your organization in April by the Honduran government—Institute for Forest Conservation (ICF)—and the Mesoamerican Development Institute (MDI).

The Yoro Biological Corridor Initiative is a collaboration of ICF, MDI, the University of Massachusetts (UMass) and the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) designed to scale-up MDI’s innovations in agro-industrial processing using renewable energy technology and forest-friendly coffee production in harmony with threatened cloud forests and national parks.

The \$45 million, ten year, program directly addresses the primary threat to the parks and provides the technology, training, education, and production methods to transform the agricultural landscape of the region to be in compliance with the Convention on Biodiversity, allowing for the preservation of local biodiversity through preservation and expansion of forest habitat. In addition, the Yoro Biological Corridor will contribute toward meeting the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) for Honduras (United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change), specifically with the commitment to reduce the use of firewood by 39%, and in forestation/reforestation of 1 million hectares of forest.

As we understand, the program is already creating new employment opportunities for rural populations to prepare and directly export sustainably processed coffee to international markets: US, Canada, Sweden, and Ireland. This proposal will scale up the existing off-grid facility and provide training of local youth to operate state-of-the art green processing and export factories.

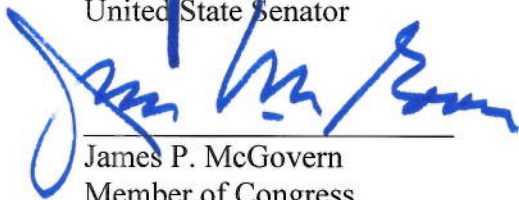
We are pleased that Massachusetts is providing technology that allows local youth to industrially process coffee without the burning of firewood, a first for the industry world-wide. The University of Massachusetts faculty and students are directly engaged in applied research to benefit the Yoro Biological Corridor to assist in meeting the most pressing environmental challenges before us. As the first major public university to divest from fossil fuels, the university is putting into practice the steps and educational example needed to transition to sustainability. Students can enjoy sustainably processed coffee from the Yoro Biological Corridor in the cafeterias and cafés on campus, further deepening the relationships and mutual understanding of the issues and people who have committed to adopting transformational technology and production methods.

Thank you for your consideration of the Yoro Biological Corridor Initiative and appreciate the unique role that the Inter-American Development Bank can play toward expending and scaling up the breakthroughs in technology and sustainable agroforestry systems. If you require any additional information please contact Kate Machet in Senator Markey's Boston office at 617-565-8519 or by email at [kate\\_machet@markey.senate.gov](mailto:kate_machet@markey.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



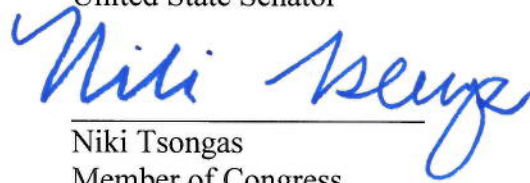
Elizabeth Warren  
United State Senator



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Edward J. Markey  
United State Senator



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress