



Response to Solicitor's Inaccurate Statements on Saving Trees

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The following e-mail exchange is another great example of responding to claims that registering on-line helps the environment by saving trees. Please feel free to use the verbiage for your needs, if you come across any similar false or misleading claims. If you need help with the verbiage, please contact your communications and EHS&Sustainability support.

Example Solicitation...

You make choices all the time. Here's an easy one with a big impact. Make a statement by registering for e-statements. When you do, you'll help the environment by saving trees. What's in it for you? You'll have access to up-to-date account information online, receive monthly statement e-mail reminders, and save postage by making your payments online.

Example Response...

I received your electronic message regarding making a statement by registering on-line. When you do, you'll help the environment by saving trees. I felt compelled to respond to this inaccurate statement. While I am pleased to know that you offer on-line and electronic alternatives to increase access to information and save time for customers, I am disappointed that you are promoting this as helping the environment.

The fact is, by using paper, you will be encouraging the growth of forests. More trees will be planted and harvested to provide renewable and reusable paper. Once you hit the send button on your PC and "burned the electrons" to send this email to me, the environment will be forever marked by the emissions from the power plants needed to produce the electrons to power the internet, not to mention the landfills that will eventually hold hardware and other e-waste — as seen on 60 Minutes.

Paper on the other hand is made from trees. Trees can be planted and harvested in a never ending cycle that enhances the earth, creates a natural sink for the carbon dioxide generated to provide electronic communications and serves as a true sustainable economic engine across the world.

I am not advocating that we cease electronic messages. We have also moved many of our processes on-line to increase efficiencies, but we are under no illusion that our electronic process is somehow better for the environment than using paper. Not using paper will not save trees or the environment. In actuality, it will force family forest owners and other private landowners to use their land in other ways to generate income, which in many cases means permanently harvesting the trees with no plans to replant.

My point in responding is hopefully to encourage you to talk with others and think about what the message really should be. Thanks for considering my letter — please, print this e-mail and share it with others. You will be protecting forestlands.

Walter Sebring, XPEDX



1700 Hwy 36 West, Rosedale Towers, Suite 510, Roseville, MN 55113
651.789.5500 www.pimn.org