Hi all,

Thanks to my work with Breadtree Farms, and launching the Bioregional Agroforestry Suitability Analysis for Terra Genesis International, I was invited to join a team for the Open IDEO/Rockefeller Foundation Food System Vision Prize. That team has been selected as a semifinalist for the prize, and as we hone our second round submission to potentially be selected as a finalist we are reaching out to you as other farmers, agroforesters, advocates, and community members to ask for your written support.

Support for what?

The core team for our submission includes the following organizations who are planning to complete the accompanying tasks using the grant-funding from this prize:

- **Terra Genesis International in partnership with TK Design Lab:** will be expanding on the BRASA case study they produced for the Connecticut River Watershed in Massachusetts. This expansion will include the Housatonic watershed, and the portions of the Mid-Hudson region that overlap with Rensselaer and Columbia counties in New York. The results of this analysis will be shared publicly for others to use in their land search, and will also be used to propose regional zones of priority for investment in agroforestry by government, philanthropic, and for-profit entities.

- **Propagate Ventures:** Building on the targeting and land inventory from BRASA will support 2-4 pilot farms with site analysis, agroforestry system planning, and financial modeling for transitioning their land in agroforestry management. The costs of these services will be offset by the grant funding, eliminating a barrier to entry for the farmers, and creating regional demonstration sites for these systems.

- **Regen Network:** will work to validate the ecological outcomes from these agroforestry investments (as well as existing projects in region) via satellite data and develop a monitoring, reporting and verification methodology to quantify the increases in above ground and soil carbon footprints, as well as quantifiable ecological co-benefits. With this methodology in place, and an inventory of the suitable land area for further agroforestry adoption (via BRASA), the culmination of this project will be a projection of the acreage
that can be transitioned into agroforestry, the impact of rates of adoption on carbon
sequestration, water quality and other ecosystem services, the enterprise financials
(including both ecosystem services payments and food production), and issuance of
agroforestry-based carbon credits.

So, we are asking if you will complete this form to signify your agreement with the linked letter
and support for our project. If you prefer to state your support via a more personal note, please
feel free to reply directly to me, and I will ensure that your response is included in the project
submission.

To be clear, the organizations listed above expect to easily burn through the grant funding in
performing this regional level analysis and tool creation, so your support of this submission will
not directly lead to your financial benefit. That said, we see these steps as regional-level
infrastructure that can garner attention, policy support, and funding for the work many of us are
already doing on the ground, and that in the not-so-distant future this project will help to enhance
livelihoods for people working to regenerate landscapes in the northeast and beyond.

Thank you for your time and care,
Russell

Form Signatories:

- Lisa DePiano, Umass Amherst, Amherst, MA
- Luke Smith, Lunasi Forest Farms, Columbia Cross Roads, PA
- Mark Phillips, Hudson River Flows, Great Barrington, MA
- Ana Smith, White Buffalo Land Trust, Santa Barbara, CA
- Zach Wolf, Caney Fork Farms, Carthage, TN
- James A Quella, Q Farms, Sharon, CT

“This project is a giant leap forward for climate stability, food sovereignty and eco-
culturally appropriate economic viability.”
- Lisa DePiano, UMass Amherst
“Please support these organizations to do this vital work for the Northeast US and beyond!!”
- Luke Smith, Lunasi Forest Farms

“Having consulted with team members at Terra Genesis International and Propagate Ventures on various writing and research projects related to agroforestry and regenerative agriculture, I know that these organizations are the ideal candidates for advancing a vibrant agroforestry industry in this region. What differentiates their work from other stakeholders in the agroforestry development community is the integration of technical ecological design skills with a studied understanding of the economic and financial conditions for enterprise success - a critical factor for agroforestry's long-term adoption and agricultural viability!

As a leader in ecological reporting and data monitoring, Regen Network's participation adds significant value to this project in providing stakeholders (including the Rockefeller Foundation, SecondMuse and OpenIDEO) with high quality data reporting of the positive ecological outcomes generated by the funding of this project.

Finally, agroforestry is a 'no-regrets' solution for society with tremendous long-term implications for agricultural climate change preparedness, food security, and right livelihood through rural economic development. The Food System Vision Prize would be achieving its own vision to fund the development of agroforestry in North America, and this team and project is the best possible opportunity to do it well.”
- Mark Phillips, Hudson River Flows

“I have known Russell Wallack for many years. He is an extremely dedicated and knowledgable professional. He and his team have done agroforestry work for us at Q Farms and the outcome has been extremely beneficial to our land and our business.”
- James A Quella, Q Farms
Mari Stuart
Co-operate WNC
3 Hut Terrace, Black Mountain, NC
May 13, 2020

Dear Rockefeller Food Systems Vision Prize,

I am Mari Stuart, Program Manager at Co-operate WNC, a non-profit based in Black Mountain, NC that creates climate and economic resilience in Western North Carolina through cooperatively funded community initiatives and agroforestry systems. I am writing to express my support for the Rockefeller Food System Visions Prize competition submission titled ‘A vibrant agroforestry industry in the Connecticut River, Housatonic River, and Hudson River watersheds in western Ma and eastern NY’ from Regen Network, TerraGenesis International, and Propagate Ventures.

As someone involved in accelerating agroforestry systems at a regional level, I believe this work will benefit regional efforts to expand local agroforestry, particularly the use of the BRASA report to target agroforestry investments, the ability to engage with pilot demonstration farms to see real-world examples in person, and the monitoring, verifying and reporting of ecological benefits of these systems. The project development of replicable agroforestry examples will benefit agroforestry initiatives across the nation.

Co-operate WNC is an on-the-ground partner of Regen Network in another pilot project intended to support the monitoring and verification of ecosystem services at a farm level, and to incentivize good stewardship practices among land managers. We look to them as a valued partner and a pioneering leader in re-envisioning our food and farming systems.

Your generous support of this pilot agroforestry implementation project will benefit regional initiatives, positively affect local farms, and support the long-term regional commitment to adopting agroforestry practices.

Sincerely,

Mari J. Stuart
Co-operate WNC