June 10, 2011

Honorable Anyaa Vohiri
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Agency
4th Street, Sinlor
P.O. Box 4024
Monrovia
Liberia

Dear Madam Vohiri:

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is proposing to issue financing to Buchanan Renewables Fuel Inc. in support of their plan to expand sustainable biomass production, including wood chipping operations and rubber tree seedlings planting throughout Liberia, and construction of a new materials handling facility at the Port of Buchanan. OPIC is an agency of the United States Government with a mandate to encourage and support U.S. private sector investments in developing countries and emerging economies. All OPIC supported projects must be economically and environmentally sound. OPIC is required by U.S. law to issue this formal notification to appropriate government authorities of investments under consideration that have the potential to pose significant consequences for the environment. The project that is the subject of this notification is Buchanan Renewable Fuels Inc.

OPIC is also required by U.S. law to provide you with information about standards and guidelines that have been developed by international organizations and by federal environmental authorities in the United States and that are applicable to such investments. OPIC applies guidelines and standards established by the World Bank Group and other similar international organizations. OPIC has enclosed these guidelines.

According to the documentation submitted by the project company, the major environmental and social concerns associated with rubber tree harvesting and replanting include: the potential impacts on surface water resources following harvesting as a result of soil erosion; potential deterioration of soil quality following harvesting due to erosion, soil compaction, excessive use of agrochemicals or overly dense replanting; impacts on landscapes; unique occupational health and safety risks associated with timber harvesting and wood chipping; increased risk of fires; and increased traffic. In order to adequately manage these risks, the project prepares site-specific harvest management plans prior to commencing harvesting activities at a new location. OPIC has reviewed these plans and based on information provided by the project company and third party auditors, this project does not appear to pose significant hazards to the environment, public health or safety.

We understand, of course, that the project will be subject to the laws of the Republic of Liberia with regard to protection of the environment, public health and safety.
If you have any questions about OPIC’s environmental and social assessment of this project, you may contact OPIC’s Director of Environmental Affairs at the above address. If you do not have any questions, there is no need to respond to this notification.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

John E. Morton  
Vice President for Investment Policy

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