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PRIVATE LABEL FURNITURE CREATED IN VERMONT ATELIER.

LUDLOW, VT — From the May 2006 cover of *Vanity Fair* to Al Gore's Academy Award-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth", everything is coming up green — including a Vermont furniture company.

Through its selective purchase of raw woods, ClearLake Furniture, in Ludlow, VT, supports the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) efforts to maintain sustainable logging practices. FSC represents forests in 25 countries, and its certification reflects the highest commitment to the environment.

"The woods we handle here aren't from ravaged forests but from those that are cultivated to be sustainable," explains Brent Karner, master craftsman and proprietor of the company. He adds that ClearLake Furniture's environmental awareness is not a trend but a deep-seated passion that is aligned with Vermont's initiatives to be a leader in this regard. The state is known for having one of the healthiest environments in the country, a fact that Karner says was one of his reasons for moving the company to Vermont in 1996.

FSC certification requires that companies like ClearLake Furniture maintain a strict chain of custody. This process follows a particular tree from a particular forest all the way through to its being crafted into a piece of fine furniture at ClearLake Furniture. Karner says the task is time-intensive but the reward comes from knowing that his company is socially responsible.

"Even without the FSC certification, we would be vigilant about preserving the environment," says Karner. "This commitment isn't limited to the wood we use, but also the environmentally friendly fabrics, paints, and finishes we use in everything we do."

ClearLake Furniture was founded in 1992 with the mission of creating fine hardwood furniture one piece at a time. Customers choose every detail for their customized pieces and are even invited to select the wood from the raw lumber. Visitors can tour the workshop daily and chat with the woodworkers. The company also has a showroom in the historic village of Woodstock, VT. For more information, visit www.clearlakefurniture.com or call 800-758-8767.

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