

THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY WELCOMES CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING LACEY ACT IMPLEMENTATION

June 24 – Yesterday a coalition of over 50 non-governmental organizations and industry leaders representing both importers and domestic producers submitted a consensus set of recommendations to the Administration and Congress. The statement was prepared to assist the Administration as it prepares its report to Congress on the Lacey Act amendments, as required by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

“This consensus is another critical step in the robust implementation of a precedent setting law which for the first time holds international trade responsible for dealing in illegal wood,” said Alexander von Bismarck, Executive Director of the Environmental Investigation Agency.

"This consensus will speed the protection of valuable forests around the world," said Senator Ron Wyden, who authored the recent amendments to the Lacey Act that successfully reduced trade in products using illegally obtained timber. “The guidance they’ve given in this consensus statement will make it easier for all the agencies involved to comply with the Act’s provisions, which means valuable forests around the world will be preserved that much more quickly. I look forward to working with the Coalition and the Obama Administration to make the Lacey Act even more effective in combating illegal logging.”

The Environmental Investigation Agency is an international non-profit campaigning organization with offices in Washington, DC, and London, UK. Since 1984, EIA has used pioneering investigative techniques to expose environmental crimes and campaign against illegal wildlife trade and threats to our global environment.

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