

U.S. Forest Products Industry Opposes H.R. 3210

November 8, 2011

Dear U.S. House of Representatives:

Our organizations stand in strong support of the Lacey Act and all that it has accomplished in addressing the issue of illegal logging worldwide since its passage in 2008. We oppose legislation such as H.R. 3210, The Retailers and Entertainers Lacey Implementation and Enforcement Fairness Act, introduced by Representative Jim Cooper that weakens this important law.

In an investigative report in 2008, The International Trade Commission stated that environmental effects caused from illegal logging are thought to disrupt trade creating unsustainable economic development and causing lost revenue for national governments and local communities.

The U.S. forest products industry produces about \$175 billion in products annually and employs nearly 900,000 men and women in good paying jobs. The industry meets a payroll of approximately \$50 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 47 states.

Because of the seriousness of this issue, our industry has worked within an unprecedented coalition including industry, environmental groups, labor organizations, retailers and others to amend the Lacey Act, and to encourage full and timely implementation. Currently we await release of a report to Congress from the implementing agencies, as required under the law. This report will provide information on actions which have been taken to date and identify any changes which may be needed going forward.

We are concerned that legislation introduced in the House, H.R. 3210, sidesteps this process and diminishes the effectiveness of the Lacey Act. We believe the Lacey Act Amendment is a sound law that requires the full input of the agency report before drawing conclusions on what needs to be changed through the legislative process.

The U.S. forest products industry has a proud tradition of providing sustainable and legal resources both domestically and around the world. Illegal logging and the threat it poses to U.S. jobs and forest resources throughout the world is being addressed by the Lacey Act. Please oppose H.R. 3210 and allow the process originally envisioned by Congress to continue.

Signed,

American Forest Foundation
American Forest and Paper Association
American Hardwood Export Council
Hardwood Federation
Indiana Hardwood Lumber Association
Kentucky Forest Industry Association

Lake States Lumber Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Hardwood Lumber Association
National Wood Flooring Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers