

October 14, 2008

Ms. Cindy Smith, Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Room 312E
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Mr. Ronald J. Tenpas, Assistant Attorney General
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Mr. H. Dale Hall, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Implementation of Revised Lacey Act Provisions, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0119

Dear Ms. Smith, Mr. Basham, Mr. Tenpas, and Mr. Hall:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong support for the principles regarding implementation of the import declaration requirement included in the Lacey Act amendments (Section 8204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-246) that are outlined in the attached letter you received from Members of Congress dated October 10, 2008.

We are united in our strong belief that more needs to be done to address illegal logging, a problem which has serious global environmental and economic consequences. We are equally united in our belief that the Lacey Act should be implemented in a pragmatic way which does not hurt legitimate trade and which maximizes public-private partnerships to address this global concern.

We believe that the letter reflects a pragmatic implementation approach for the declaration requirement.

Respectfully,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Fiber Manufacturers Association
American Forest & Paper Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Trucking Associations
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders
Association
Custom Brokers & Forwarders Association of
Northern California
Customs Brokers & International Freight
Forwarders Association of Washington State
Defenders of Wildlife

Dogwood Alliance
Emergency Committee for American Trade
Environmental Investigation Agency
Fashion Jewelry Trade Association
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America
ForestEthics
Global Witness
Green Press Initiative
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hardwood Federation
The Hosiery Association
Joint Industry Group

Los Angeles Customs & Freight Brokers
Association
NAMM, the International Music Products
Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders
Association of America
National Hardwood Lumber Association
National Home Furnishings Association
National Retail Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
Northern Border Customs Brokers Association
Outdoor Industry Association

Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and
Freight Forwarders
Promotional Products Association International
Rainforest Action Network
Retail Industry Leaders Association
San Diego District Customs Brokers Association
Sierra Club
Small Business Legislative Council
Sustainable Furnishings Council
Travel Goods Association
Tropical Forest Trust
U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and
Apparel
U.S. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
World Wildlife Fund

Attachment

cc: Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Senator Ron Wyden
House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall
Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin
House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel
Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus