



The Honorable Ron Wyden
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

July 30, 2007

Dear Senator Wyden:

The below organizations, representing the private sector and environmental interests, thank you for sponsoring the Combat Illegal Logging Act. Illegal logging is unquestionably a shared concern that compromises the economic, environmental, and social objectives of sustainable forestry and poses a considerable threat to the interests of our organizations.

Illegal logging is a criminal activity that undermines governance systems worldwide, destroys ecosystems, contributes to carbon emissions, harms often poor and rural communities, and forces American businesses and workers to compete against inappropriately low-cost forest products made from illegally sourced fiber. Illegal logging costs the U.S. forest products industry an estimated \$1 billion per year in depressed prices and reduced exports, and contributes to ongoing mill closures and job losses.

The Combat Illegal Logging Act, which amends the long-standing federal Lacey Act to include timber and timber products, is a vital step in combating illegal logging by changing the incentives that drive trade in illegal timber. This Act will raise the risks for illegal trade without harming legal trade and will be an important step toward leveling a playing field currently stacked against the U.S. forest products industry and importers and retailers committed to trading in legal wood products. The Act will also bring the power of the U.S. market to bear on fighting the illegal timber trade and will reinforce work being done with U.S. tax dollars to improve governance in forest-rich developing countries.

The Combat Illegal Logging Act sends a strong signal to world markets that wood products harvested illegally will no longer be acceptable in the United States. We endorse this critically-needed legislation and hope your colleagues do the same.

Sincerely,

*American Forest & Paper Association
Conservation International
Environmental Investigation Agency
Hardwood Federation*

*National Hardwood Lumber Association
Society of American Foresters
The Nature Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund*