

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3506**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Byron Rushing**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to protect tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Frank I. Smizik	15th Norfolk
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3238 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### AN ACT TO PROTECT TROPICAL FORESTS BY RESTRICTING STATE PURCHASES OF CERTAIN WOOD PRODUCTS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority  
of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 22 of chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the  
2 following new subsection after line 66:--

3 (17a) The state shall not purchase wood grown in a tropical forest or products made up substantially of  
4 wood grown in a tropical forest except where a public necessity exists and no other alternative is available  
5 or unless the wood originates from second growth forests and carries independent certification, accredited  
6 by the Forest Stewardship Council.

7 For purposes of this Act, “tropical forests” are defined as any and all forests occurring within the tropics  
8 of Cancer and Capricorn, including but not limited to humid tropical forests, moist tropical forests,  
9 tropical rain forests and tropical dry forests.

10 For purposes of this Act, “second growth forests” is defined as forests that have been cut or severely  
11 impacted at least ten years prior to logging for wood.

12 For purposes of this Act, “independent certification” is defined as a credible and internationally  
13 recognized scheme of forest management certification that is independent of any government body or any  
14 corporate entity involved in the cutting, transport, milling, distribution, supply or sales of wood products;  
15 includes the tracking of the chain-of-custody of the wood.

16 Where state monies are being used, recycled plastic lumber shall be considered as an alternate material in  
17 all bids for outdoor and marine projects where hazardous material treated woods (HMTW) and tropical  
18 hardwoods are typically used, such as boardwalks, piers, pilings, fender piles, docks, bulkheads, ferry  
19 terminals, bridge decking and understructure, benches, and other outdoor state or municipal amenities.