

HOUSE No. 00836

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Byron Rushing

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:
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 00836

By Mr. Byron Rushing of Boston, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00836) of Kay Khan and others relative to protecting tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products. Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 3506 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

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
2 the following new subsection after line 66:--

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

7 For purposes of this Act, “tropical forests” are defined as any and all forests occurring within the
8 tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, including but not limited to humid tropical forests, moist
9 tropical forests, 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
11 severely 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
14 body or any corporate entity involved in the cutting, transport, milling, distribution, supply or
15 sales of wood products; 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
17 material in all bids for outdoor and marine projects where hazardous material treated woods
18 (HMTW) and tropical hardwoods are typically used, such as boardwalks, piers, pilings, fender
19 piles, docks, bulkheads, ferry terminals, bridge decking and understructure, benches, and other
20 outdoor state or municipal amenities.