

To: The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
From: Coalition Working to Improve the Lacey Act
Subject: Support for HR 3210, The RELIEF Act

As a broad coalition of domestic manufacturers, retailers, and distributors who strongly support the goals of the Lacey Act, we would like to express our wholehearted support of HR 3210 (the RELIEF Act), with the inclusion of the en bloc amendments offered by the honorable Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana, which strengthens and improves the integrity of the Lacey Act by addressing the unintended consequences of the 2008 Amendments to the Act.

As signed into law, the 2008 Amendments to the Lacey Act actually hurt our collective effort to identify and root out the most invidious source of illegal logging—organized crime syndicates. Further, the Amendments may have a devastating impact on scores of U.S. industries, thousands of family-owned companies and an untold number of American jobs.

HR 3210, with Rep. Fleming's amendments, provides simple but vital refinements to the Lacey Act that will prevent the potentially devastating and unintended consequences of the 2008 Amendments. In doing so, it simultaneously increases the protection of the forests around the globe and American businesses and consumers here at home. HR 3210 brings the intent of the Lacey Act—preserving forests around the world from the ravages of illegal logging—in line with the practical effects of its implementation.

Our Coalition and the millions of American workers we represent understand the importance of protecting forests in a way that also creates and protects American jobs and industries. That is why we enthusiastically endorse HR 3210 with Rep. Fleming's en bloc amendments. Thank you, Chairman Hastings and the Committee on Natural Resources, for your efforts to restore an even-handed approach to forest conservation and honest and fair business regulations.

Sincerely,

American Association of Exporters & Importers
American Home Furnishings Alliance
Express Association of America
The Hosiery Association
International Wood Products Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Music Merchants

National Lumber & Building Material Dealers
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Retail Federation
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform
Window & Door Manufacturers Association