



FORESTS FOREVER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leach and Slaughter propose ban on commercial logging in National Forests

*Legislation provides comprehensive solution to the 100-year fight
over public lands management*

WASHINGTON, DC: Representatives Jim Leach (R-IA) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY) introduced the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act today, which would ban commercial logging in national forests. Over 200 scientists and 300 grassroots forest protection organizations support the legislation because it provides comprehensive protection for all U.S. national forests.

"This bill would return our national forests to the purpose for which they were originally conceived," said Paul Hughes, executive director of Forests Forever, "which is protecting our forest heritage, rather than providing sawtimber for private profit."

"The Forest Service and the Bush administration cannot be trusted to do the right thing when it comes to our national forests," said Susan Curry, NFWP executive director. "The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act will end this debate once and for all by taking our forests out of the timber business and putting them into the public trust, where they belong."

"The U.S. government is the only property owner I know which in effect pays private parties to deplete its resources," said Rep. Leach. "It is time to manage better our fiscal as well as our ecological resources."

"Protecting America's national heritage is a conservation imperative," Leach noted. "It should also be a conservative one. Indeed it is time to put 'conservation' back into 'conservatism.' For the essence of conservatism should not only be concern for conserving traditional family and social values but also our land, our air and our water."

"America's national forests are a rich part of our nation's wild heritage that we want to protect and pass on to our children, not squander for short-term profit," said Sean Cosgrove, Sierra Club forest policy specialist.

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Restore, Reinhabit, Re-Enchant

The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act would:

- * End the wasteful federal timber sale program, which costs the taxpayer more than \$1 billion annually but provides less than two percent of our annual consumption of wood-based products;
- * Redirect these subsidies to the restoration of forests, streams and wildlife habitat damaged by destructive logging practices;
- * Fund retraining for displaced timber workers and help affected communities diversify and strengthen their economies;
- * Fund research into alternative materials to wood-based products.

For more information about the grassroots campaign to end commercial logging in U.S. national forests, contact the National Forest Protection Alliance at nfpa@forestadvocate.org or www.forestadvocate.org