

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3238

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, petition of Byron Rushing and others relative to protecting tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Byron Rushing	Patricia D. Jehlen
Matthew C. Patrick	Peter V. Kocot
Gloria L. Fox	Barbara A. L'Italien
Willie Mae Allen	Denise Provost

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

### 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 22 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended  
2 by inserting the following new subsection after line 66:—

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

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

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

16 For purposes of this Act, “independent certification” is defined as  
17 a credible and internationally recognized scheme of forest manage-  
18 ment certification that is independent of any government body or

19 any corporate entity involved in the cutting, transport, milling, distri-  
20 bution, supply or sales of wood products; includes the tracking of  
21 the chain-of-custody of the wood.

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