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Dear Senator/Representative:

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), on behalf of its 7 million members and constituents, strongly supports the *Act to Save America's Forests*. We encourage you to become a cosponsor of this important forest ecosystem and wildlife protection bill. The HSUS was founded in 1954 to promote the humane treatment of animals, to foster respect, understanding, and compassion for all creatures, and to protect habitat for wildlife. Our message of care and protection embraces not only the animal kingdom but also the Earth and its environment.

America's natural environment is under continued assault from many causes. Our wild forests are home to thousands of species, making them one of the richest and most important ecosystems on earth. Tragically, our majestic forests are dwindling at an alarming rate. More than 90% of America's original forests have been clearcut, leaving many wild forest animals no place to live. The permanent loss of their natural forest home means certain death for creatures large and small, from birds and bats to bears and salamanders.

While most of the remaining wild unprotected forests in America are in our national forest system, these precious habitats are deliberately being clearcut and destroyed at the direction of our own U.S. Forest Service. Even rare ancient forests with their giant, centuries old trees are being cut down, despite the fact that these old growth stands are the only home for dwindling species such as the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, and the wild salmon. Failure to reverse the current misguided policies of clearcutting and ecologically damaging logging will cause the extinction of many species due to permanent loss and conversion of habitat. We must not let this be the final fate for forest-dwelling animals. These species' survival is in our hands.

The *Act to Save America's Forests* will achieve the goal of nationwide forest protection and restoration and will set an example for enlightened, science-based, and humane forest management for the entire world. HSUS commends Senator Jon Corzine and Representatives Anna Eshoo and Carolyn Maloney for their leadership in introducing this legislation. We hope that it will be enacted during the 108th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.



Wayne Pacelle
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Media

Sincerely,



Mimi Brody
Director
Federal Legislation

Promoting the protection of all animals

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