

Eshoo Introduces Bill to Protect National Forests, Diminish Effects of Climate Change

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Washington, D.C. - Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D – Palo Alto) introduced a bill yesterday that will protect national forests, federal lands and wildlife refuges from aggressive logging practices that are destroying the native ecosystems in these habitats. The Act to Save America's Forests (H.R. 7090) will preserve these national treasures for future generations by banning all clearcutting in national forests. The bipartisan bill will also mitigate the damaging effects of climate change.

“This legislation bans logging practices that are decimating our nation's forests,” said Eshoo. “The situation has reached a breaking point in America's forests, federal lands and wildlife refuges and Congress must step in to protect the biodiversity of these ecosystems before it's too late. The added benefit of decreasing carbon emissions amplifies the need to pass this legislation.”

The Act to Save America's Forests will allow for ecologically sustainable logging in federal lands, while ending logging altogether in core regions of the federal forest system. The legislation will also transfer the Giant Sequoia National Monument from the National Forest Service to the National Park Service. While under the jurisdiction of the National Forest Service, logging has continued in the Giant Sequoia National Monument, whereas when it is placed under the National Park Service logging will cease.

The bill mitigates the damaging effects of climate change. More carbon emissions are produced each year by deforestation than by the burning of fossil fuels. Logging reduces the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) that forests can absorb from the atmosphere, costing billions of dollars annually.

Eshoo, a longtime proponent of protecting the nation's forests, has introduced similar bills in the last four Congresses. The Act to Save America's Forests has the bipartisan support of 70 Members of Congress.###