

**ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT \* AMERICAN LANDS ALLIANCE  
CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE \* DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER  
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP \* FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS \* NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL \* NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
OREGON WILD \* SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FOREST COALITION  
SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER \* SIERRA CLUB  
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY \* WILDEARTH GUARDIANS \* WILD SOUTH**

March 6, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters we urge you to oppose Representative Herseth-Sandlin's recently introduced bill to amend the Clean Air Act, H.R. 1190. By replacing the current definition of renewable biomass in the Renewable Fuels Standard, H.R. 1190 would roll back critical environmental safeguards that protect important wildlife habitat, at risk forests and grasslands, and our federal forests. These provisions are an essential part of sound biofuels policy and help keep the Energy Bill's 36 billion gallon biofuels mandate from resulting in even more harm than good.

As climate change radically alters our landscape we must preserve our remaining natural ecosystems and ensure they are healthy and resilient. H.R. 1190 would remove vital ecosystem protections in the RFS mandate, replacing the current definition of renewable biomass with a version that lacks any meaningful protections.

The proposed changes would incentivize the loss of critical wildlife habitat, natural forests and grasslands, and the degradation of our federal forests. On federal lands the language the bill uses to restrict old growth logging is vague and confusing and could cause the loss of big trees that provide key wildlife habitat and are the most resistant to forest fires. H.R. 1190 also relies on land management plans that can easily be changed to permit logging in inventoried roadless areas, fragile soils, and steep slopes.

Moreover, the RFS land and forest safeguards work in concert with the RFS's greenhouse gas standards to keep new biofuels production from resulting in deforestation or other land conversion that would release millions of tons of global warming pollution. Deforestation already contributes 20 percent of global GHG emissions and our biofuels policies must assiduously avoid contributing to this problem.

The RFS land and climate safeguards provide for a plentiful supply of biofuel feedstocks without putting important wildlife habitat, natural forests, native grasslands, and public lands in our gas tanks. Stripping these safeguards through legislation like H.R. 1190 would represent a dangerous step backwards for biofuels and climate policy alike.

Once again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 1190 which rolls back the 2007 Energy Bill RFS environmental safeguards.

Sincerely,

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