

**AMERICAN LANDS ALLIANCE * NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE * EARTHJUSTICE * ENVIRONMENT AMERICA
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH * NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER * SIERRA CLUB
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY**

June 3, 2008

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters we urge you to oppose all amendments to the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Substitute to the Climate Security Act, S. 3036 that roll back the environmental safeguards established as part of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). 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. Several recent proposals would remove vital ecosystem protections in the RFS mandate, replacing the current definition of renewable biomass with versions that lack meaningful safeguards.

As Congress considers precedent setting legislation to address global warming pollution and provide vital resources for adaptation, it would be particularly perverse to pursue provisions that effectively convert biofuels into just another dirty fuel and undermine environmental goals.

The proposed changes would incentivize the loss of critical wildlife habitat, natural forests and grasslands, and the degradation of our public forests. On public lands, recently proposed language used 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. These proposals also rely on land management plans that can easily be changed to permit logging in inventoried roadless areas, fragile soils, and steep slopes.

Moreover, the current RFS land and forest safeguards work in concert with EISA's greenhouse gas (GHG) 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 enable 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 amendments to S. 3036 would represent a dangerous step backwards for biofuels and climate policy alike.

Once again, we urge you to oppose attempts to roll back EISA's RFS environmental safeguards when the Senate takes up the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Substitute to the Climate Security Act, S. 3036.

Sincerely,

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