

27 January 1970

Representative Manuel Lujan
for the State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Rep. Lujan:

Legislation termed The National Timber Supply Act is being considered by the Congress of the United States. I urge you as strongly as it is possible to do so to vote against this legislation whenever you have the opportunity. My reasons are based on the following considerations:

- 1) The Timber Supply Act would remove for all time from any use other than logging all public forest land not specifically designated and set aside by law for other use.
- 2) It will completely undermine and render ineffective the long established principle of Multiple Use of National Forest land.
- 3) It will eliminate once and for all the possibility for the establishment of as yet undesignated wilderness areas, wild life refuges, and recreational facilities in National Forests.
- 4) It will degrade the complex ecology of vast tracts of forest land held in public trust, and lead to the destruction and indeed the extinction of many mammal, bird, and fish species, and many species of plants. These effects are clearly indicated by the extensive damage caused to biotic resources by accepted logging practice on private land.
- 5) It will lead to the removal of the forest cover over millions of acres of mountainous country, thereby exposing the soil to erosion and enduring damage with consequent loss of photosynthetic vegetation which the planet can ill afford.
- 6) The Timber Supply Act is legislation particularly designed to favor and to give financial support to the timber industry alone. In fact, in a very real sense, it amounts to a subsidy of this industry at an enormous expense to public welfare. Much of the increased timber yield will go into export trade to Japan and will not benefit the American people.
- 7) The Act rejects all the principles of accepted sustained-yield forestry practice. It is a short sighted program that underwrites quick profits without regard for the future. In other words the Act subscribes to ethical justification of the slogan: get while the getting is good and to hell with posterity.
- 8) For Congress to enact this legislation, which plays free and easy with the environment, would amount to the acceptance of a most

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cynical disregard of the rightful expectations of the youth of today and a dereliction of duty to future generations of Americans.

The Timber Supply Act is out of keeping with any reasonable concern for the environment and is not compatible with President Nixon's warning that the time is overdue for America to repay its debt to nature.

Yours respectfully,