

***ORDINANCE NO. _____**

AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS BY ELIMINATING MUNICIPAL PURCHASES OF WOOD PRODUCTS CONSISTING, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OF TROPICAL OR TEMPERATE RAINFOREST WOODS THAT ARE NOT HARVESTED SUSTAINABLY.

WHEREAS, the rate of rainforest loss is accelerating;
WHEREAS, clearing and burning of rainforests is linked to atmospheric imbalance, global warming, species extinctions, loss of indigenous cultures, loss of potential medicines, and displacement of local peoples;
WHEREAS, commercial logging is currently directly responsible for 12% of tropical deforestation,
WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization commercial logging is indirectly responsible for up to 70% of tropical deforestation due to the access provided to shifting cultivators by logging roads;
WHEREAS, commercial logging is the greatest cause of deforestation in tropical Southeast Asia;
WHEREAS, commercial logging is the greatest cause of the loss of temperate rainforests;
WHEREAS, a large part of the production of wood from commercial logging operations in the tropics is exported to the United States and other industrialized nations;
WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of all who live, work and do business in _____ that measures be taken to reduce and stop the destruction of rainforests worldwide;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ CITY COUNCIL that the City of _____ will not purchase products containing in whole or in part wood from tropical forests, or tropical or temperate rainforests excepting those woods which are proven to have been harvested in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Appendix A.

Passed by the Council this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Council President

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney

APPENDIX A

Terms of this resolution will be met if it can be proven through an independent certification program approved by the Forest Stewardship Council that the rainforest wood product has come from a forest operation that can be shown to meet the following conditions*:

Local Involvement

local communities are involved in all stages of planning and management of diverse forest products for sustainable yields.

Land Rights

Projects must not interfere with aboriginal or traditional land rights of indigenous peoples, or other current land tenants.

Ecology

Timber harvesting cannot adversely affect beneficial physical processes such as climatic regulations, the surface or ground water quality or the overall watershed function.

Timber harvesting must maintain soil productivity and not increase erosion rates.

Timber harvesting must not use synthetic or other harmful pesticides or herbicides.

Timber harvesting must not diminish biological diversity of flora and fauna including tree species.

The potential for continuous harvest of all timber and non-timber forest products must be maintained.

*At this time there are certain independent programs which certify timber production in the tropics as meeting these and other conditions. These include but are not limited to the Smart Wood™ Program of the Rainforest Alliance, and Scientific Certification Systems. Wood products labeled as Smart Wood™ or SCS Certified would meet the above conditions and would be considered acceptable as meeting the conditions of this resolution.

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international body accepted as an overseer of independent certifiers. The Forest Stewardship Council guidelines have met with approval by organizations around the world.