## Rainforest Safe™ Pledge Rainforest Wood

## Sparing Earth's Rainforests from Consumption

As a citizen of planet Earth, I am highly concerned about the loss of the world's species and its rainforests.

Rainforests are the most biologically rich ecosystems on Earth. It is estimated that 50 to 90% of the array of unique biological organisms – estimated to be between 10 and 30 million species – are supported by the world's rainforests.

The rainforests of Earth are being depleted at an alarming rate. Estimates put this rate at one and a half acres lost worldwide each and every second.

This rate of forest destruction is driving to extinction an estimated 50 to 400 species every day.

I recognize that logging for timber plays a major role in the loss of rainforests. In Southeast Asia, logging has been the single largest cause of deforestation. In South America and western Africa, logging damages the forest, and roads built for logging provide access leading to destructive forest conversion for slash and burn farming, agricultural plantations, rangeland, and urban settlements.

As some who cares about the future of Earth and of humans, I am concerned about the use and abuse of wood from rainforests. Therefore, I do hereby declare that I will avoid using all uncertified\* tropical hardwoods and old-growth temperate rainforest woods in future construction, furnishings and sales; will consult with Rainforest Relief before major purchases of wood or wood products to assure they were not unsustainably taken from rainforests; and I will make every effort to use ecologically sound alternatives to rainforest wood and wood products, including recycled and salvage materials, non-wood materials and wood from independently certified\* forestry operations. \*For purposes of this pledge, "certified" is defined as wood originating from operations certified by an FSC-accredited organization and from non-old growth forests.

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