

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -8 A8:17

SENATE

S.B. No. **516**

RECEIVED BY: *Jui*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit logging operations of any kind in any forest, timber land, forest reserve or watershed for the next twenty-five (25) years.

Deforestation is the conversion of forested areas to non-forest land use such as arable land, urban use, logged area or wasteland. Historically, this meant conversion to grassland or to its artificial counterpart, grainfields; however, the industrial revolution added urbanization. Generally, this removal or destruction of significant areas of forest cover has resulted in a degraded environment with reduced biodiversity. In developing countries, massive deforestation is ongoing and is shaping climate and geography.

In the Philippines, forest resources have continued to dissipate through the years. The country's forest cover now stands at 7 million hectares, as compared to the 30 million hectares that it used to have.

There is an urgent need to stop deforestation in the country, which from 1990 until 2000, was at the rate of 1.4%, the highest among the Southeast Asian nations. The benefits of ensuring the sustainable growth and development of our forest resource and the richness of our biodiversity are boundless and cannot be offset by commercial progress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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AN ACT
TOTALLY BANNING LOGGING OPERATIONS FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-
FIVE YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared a policy of the State
2 to "protect and promote the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology
3 in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.
4

5 **SEC. 2. Prohibited Acts.**- It shall be unlawful for any person to cut, fell or
6 destroy any tree standing on any forest, timber land, forest reserve or watershed
7 within the next twenty-five (25) years from the approval of this Act. This prohibition
8 shall not apply to trees grown in legitimate commercial tree farms.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Penalties.** - Any person who violates this Act shall be punished by
11 imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years. Any
12 juridical entity that violates this Act shall forfeit its license or permit to do business
13 in the Philippines. In addition, it shall be made to pay a fine of not less than Five
14 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos
15 (P5,000,000.00) at the discretion of the Court. The Chairman and/or the Chief
16 Executive Officer or any other officer of the company responsible for the violation of
17 this Act shall be imprisoned for a period of not less than five (5) years but not more
18 than ten (10) years also at the discretion of the Court. Aliens who violate this law
19 shall be deported after their sentences shall have been served.
20

1 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid,
2 the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full
3 force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders
6 and their implementing rules, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
7 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

8

9 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

11

12 Approved,