

HR 5508

FOREST Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Foreign Trade and International Finance

Introduced: Oct 8, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5508>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]

Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (31 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Oct 8, 2021
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Oct 19, 2021
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Nov 17, 2021
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Dec 14, 2021
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Dec 20, 2021
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jan 20, 2022
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Feb 3, 2022
Rep. Suozzi, Thomas R. [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Feb 3, 2022
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Feb 8, 2022
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Feb 15, 2022
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Mar 30, 2022
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Apr 11, 2022
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2022
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jun 15, 2022
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jul 12, 2022
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jul 12, 2022
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jul 12, 2022
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jul 15, 2022
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jul 27, 2022
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Sep 19, 2022
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Sep 19, 2022
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Sep 30, 2022
Rep. Brown, Shontel M. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Nov 30, 2022
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Nov 30, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 8, 2021
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 8, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 8, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 8, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Foreign Trade and International Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2950	Identical bill	Oct 6, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of Oct 8, 2021)

Fostering Overseas Rule of law and Environmentally Sound Trade Act of 2021 or the FOREST Act of 2021

This bill restricts certain commodities produced on illegally deforested land from accessing the U.S. market.

Specifically, the bill prohibits the importation of any product made wholly or in part of a covered commodity produced from illegally deforested land. The bill outlines requirements for import declarations of covered commodities.

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) must, within 30 days, publish (1) an initial list of covered commodities that consists of palm oil, soybeans, cocoa, cattle, rubber, and wood pulp; and (2) an initial list of covered products that are defined by the bill in accordance with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. These lists must be updated at least on an annual basis.

Further, the USTR must identify foreign countries without adequate and effective protection against illegal deforestation caused by the production of commodities that are likely to enter the United States. The USTR must develop an action plan that includes benchmarks for each identified country.

Additionally, the bill creates an interagency working group to provide advice and recommendations to the USTR, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other relevant agencies.

The bill provides funding to assist foreign governments in combating illegal deforestation.

The bill also includes illegal deforestation as a specified unlawful activity under a federal financial crime statute.

The bill establishes a federal procurement preference for commodities that are not produced from land subject to deforestation.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Nov 4, 2021:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H6186-6187)
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.