

S 3371

FOREST Act of 2023

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Foreign Trade and International Finance

**Introduced:** Nov 30, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Nov 30, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3371>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]	R · IN		Nov 30, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 30, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Foreign Trade and International Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 6515	Identical bill	<b>Dec 17, 2024:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

## **Fostering Overseas Rule of law and Environmentally Sound Trade Act of 2023 or the FOREST Act of 2023**

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 on illegally deforested land. The bill outlines requirements for import declarations of covered commodities.

The Office of 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, and rubber; 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 for 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 on land subject to deforestation.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Nov 30, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.