

HR 6515

FOREST Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Foreign Trade and International Finance

Introduced: Nov 30, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade. (Dec 17, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6515>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (30 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Nov 30, 2023
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Dec 7, 2023
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Dec 7, 2023
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Dec 7, 2023
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Dec 11, 2023
Rep. Tokuda, Jill N. [D-HI-2]	D · HI		Dec 11, 2023
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jan 10, 2024
Rep. Ramirez, Delia C. [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Jan 10, 2024
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Jan 10, 2024
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Jan 29, 2024
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-37]	D · TX		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Beyer, Donald S. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Feb 28, 2024
Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]	D · OR		Feb 28, 2024
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Mar 5, 2024
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Mar 5, 2024
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Mar 22, 2024
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Apr 9, 2024
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Apr 17, 2024
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		May 8, 2024
Rep. Casten, Sean [D-IL-6]	D · IL		May 15, 2024
Rep. Mullin, Kevin [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jul 11, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 30, 2023
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 30, 2023
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 30, 2023
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Nov 30, 2023
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 17, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Foreign Trade and International Finance

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 3371	Identical bill	Nov 30, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of Nov 30, 2023)

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

- **Dec 17, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Oversight and Accountability, 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.