

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1550

Introduced by REP. DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS

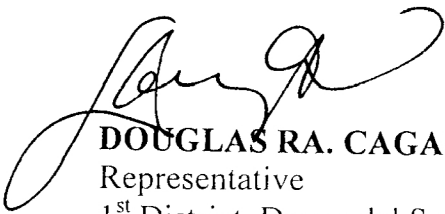
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our forests are at the mercy of those who rape the environment by engaging in illegal logging activities to satisfy selfish commercial motives. Some government officials who are supposed to lead the crusade to protect the environment abet this revolting practice. Worse, a big portion of funds earmarked for the reforestation program of the government goes to the pockets of unscrupulous individuals.

The elimination of our forest cover has caused the erosion of the area's fragile topsoil destroying rich agricultural land and even fishing grounds. The siltation of riverbeds, irrigation canals and estuaries eventually follow. This destroys the marine ecosystem when coral reefs are covered by siltation caused by soil erosion. These misfortunes would have been avoided had the forests been protected from illegal logging.

In order to save our remaining forests and to ensure the successful reforestation of the badly denuded areas, Congress should impose a total log ban in forests, timberland, forest reserves and watersheds for the next twenty-five (25) years.

In view of the urgent need to stop the rapid deforestation of our forests, the immediate approval of this Act is therefore requested.


DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS
Representative
1st District, Davao del Sur

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AN ACT
TOTALLY BANNING LOGGING OPERATIONS FOR THE NEXT
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared a Policy of the State to prohibit logging operations of any kind in any forest, timber land, forest reserve or watershed for the next twenty-five (25) years.

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

SECTION 3. Penalties. - Any person who violates this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years.

Any juridical entity that violates this Act shall forfeit its license or permit to do business in the Philippines. In addition, it shall be made to pay a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) at the discretion of the Court. The Chairman and/or the Chief Executive Officer or any other officer of the company responsible for the violation of this law shall be imprisoned for a period of not less than five (5) years

but not more than ten (10) years also at the discretion of the Court. Aliens who violate this law shall be deported after their sentences shall have been served.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,