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## **“Save Our Sequoias Act” Unveiled as a Trojan Horse for Industrial Logging in Giant Sequoia Groves— Even in National Parks and Wilderness Areas!**

The main promoters of the deceptively-named Save Our Sequoias Act (SOS Act) logging bill, HR 2709 (Rep. Fong, R-CA), have publicly claimed that the bill is needed supposedly to save giant sequoia groves from high-intensity fire, and to “restore” and “reforest” giant sequoia groves, which they claim have little or no sequoia reproduction in recent high-intensity fire patches. They also claim, based on an unpublished government report that used anecdotal accounts (since proven false) and never went through the scientific peer-review process, that 20% of all large sequoias were killed in the 2020-2021 wildfires. **But the bill’s backers are lying to you. Nowhere near 20% of large giant sequoias were killed in the 2020-2021 wildfires, according to a more recent and much more comprehensive investigation. In addition, by far the most abundant and fast-growing giant sequoia reproduction is occurring in the larger high-intensity fire patches within recent big wildfires.** Under the Trump Administration, the federal land agencies have closed vast areas of giant sequoia groves to the public and the press, foreclosing access to Nature and preventing people from being able to hike into these sequoia groves and see for themselves that federal land agencies are deceiving them.

**The SOS logging bill is really just a transparent logging industry Trojan Horse that would override all major environmental laws to usher in an era of lawless industrial logging the likes of which hasn’t been seen in many decades:**

- Section 5(g) would suspend the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to allow government agencies to create an “Assessment” of what they claim needs to be done in giant sequoia groves, so the public and independent scientists would have no ability to comment on the

Assessment and point out any scientific errors or misrepresentations that would cause harm to sequoia groves. In addition, Section 5(d) dishonestly defines “best available science” as science produced by the very same land management agencies that would be creating the “Assessment”, as well as university scientists funded by these agencies. Section 5(d) exempts the agencies from having to consider peer-reviewed science from independent scientists who have found that the pro-logging government scientists, and university scientists funded by pro-logging agencies like the Forest Service, have falsified the scientific record and promoted inaccurate information.

- Section 6(a)(2) completely rolls back NEPA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as the National Historic Preservation Act, to allow lawless industrial logging in giant sequoia groves “before” complying with these bedrock environmental laws. In other words, there would be no environmental laws because the logging projects would already be done before the public was notified or could comment on the proposed logging, or before any endangered species consultation occurred. Section 6(a)(3) mandates that any logging projects recommended by the “Assessment” must occur, regardless of any other environmental laws. There are no restrictions whatsoever on the type of logging, or the number, size, age, or species of trees that would be sold off to logging companies, so unrestricted logging of mature and old-growth trees could occur, including clearcutting. **In fact, old-growth trees, even monarch giant sequoias, could be logged—even in National Parks and Wilderness Areas, which are included by the Definitions sections.**
- Section 7(c) overrides the Wilderness Act to allow artificial tree plantations to be created in Wilderness Areas, even if there is abundant natural post-fire sequoia regeneration.

**Take Action:** Please call your Congressional Representative and your U.S. Senators today (Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121) and urge them to strongly oppose H.R. 2709, the dishonest SOS logging bill that would destroy giant sequoia groves if passed.