

**Union of Concerned Scientists – National Wildlife Federation – Sierra Club –
Defenders of Wildlife – Natural Resources Defense Council – World Wildlife Fund -
Oxfam America**

**Support the Menendez-Kerry amendment
to reduce emissions from tropical deforestation**

Dear Senator:

We write in support of the Menendez-Kerry amendment to S. 3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, which would increase the allocation of allowances to protect international forests. This amendment would make an important difference to the international effort to reduce tropical deforestation, which is the cause of 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. This is an enormous amount, about equal to the U.S.' entire emissions, and more than the global warming pollution produced by every car, truck, bus, train and airplane on earth. Moreover, this provision will reduce emissions beyond the reductions made by the bill's cap, not just offset them.

Recent estimates of the economic and scientific potential of the allocations to reduce tropical deforestation show that they can realistically make reductions of over 600 million tons of CO₂ in the year 2020. This reduction would represent a major achievement in the fight against global warming: equal to 10% of the U.S.' 1990 emissions, 17% of global emissions from deforestation in 2020, and 20% of the reductions made by the bill's cap in that same year. Because reducing emissions from tropical deforestation is relatively inexpensive, all this can be accomplished by allocating just 2.5% of emissions allowances. This is what the Menendez-Kerry amendment will do, taking allocations from the windfall given away free to the oil industry..

This simple step will make major reductions in emissions from tropical deforestation as well as protect the habitats of millions of species and promote sustainable development for the peoples of the world's tropical forests. Our organizations strongly urge you to support the Menendez-Kerry amendment.

Sincerely,

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Sierra Club
Defenders of Wildlife
Natural Resources Defense Council
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