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April 22, 2008

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Knollenberg,

I am writing you to urge you to help stop the destruction of the rainforests in the world. Deforestation is becoming a huge factor in our worlds continuing problem with diminishing natural resources, wild life, and also is a contributing factor in the problem of global warming. With your help we can work to preserve the rainforest of our world and help make it a better place for future generations. By make people more aware of the current situations we can help stop what is happening to the rainforest.

The main sources of deforestation in the rainforest are human settlement and development of the land. Between 1991 and 2000, the total area of forest lost rose from 415,000 to 587,000 km^2, an area twice the size of Portugal, with most of the lost forest becoming feeding grounds for cattle. In February, 2008, the Brazilian government announced that the rate at which the rainforest is being cut down has increased much over the past few months. During the last five months of 2007, more than 3,200 sq. kilometers (an area equivalent to the size of the state of Rhode Island) was deforested during a time when deforestation would normally drop.(wikipedia.com)

Environmentalists have stated there is not only a biological incentive to protecting the rainforest, but also an economic one. One hectare in the Peruvian Amazon has been calculated to have a value of $6820 if intact forest is harvested for fruits, latex, and timber; $1000 if clear-cut for commercial timber. From 2002 to 2006, the conserved land in the Amazon Rainforest has almost tripled and deforestation rates have dropped up to 60%. About 250,000,000 acres have been put onto some sort of conservation, which adds up to a current amount of 430,000,000 acres. (wikipedia.com)

Please send me a letter with your position on this very important issue. Thank you very much for your time and commitment.

Sincerley,

Derek Rabban