Dear Mr. Joe Knollenberg

I urge you to co-sponsor the bipartisan Legal Timber Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 1497) to fight the growing threat of international illegal logging.

From Brazil to the Indonesia, illegal logging is taking a terrible toll on ancient forests worldwide. Each year, millions of acres of forests are razed by illegal logging operations, leaving human rights abuses, environmental destruction, forest fires, and devastated communities in their wake. Criminal logging also emits staggering amounts of greenhouse gases, contributing to global warming that affects us all.

At home, American timber companies lose an estimated $1 billion each year due to unfair competition from illegal logging. It is inexcusable to sacrifice American jobs to unchecked criminal logging overseas.

Those who profit from illegal logging are trying to water down the Legal Timber Protection Act. I urge you to join the diverse coalition of industry, labor, and conservation organizations that support the bill, and work to pass it as soon as possible. When passed, this balanced, practical measure will help protect forests, honest jobs, and people worldwide.

Sincerely,
Kelle Peeplez
255 Carriage Circle Dr Apt 206
Pontiac, MI 48342