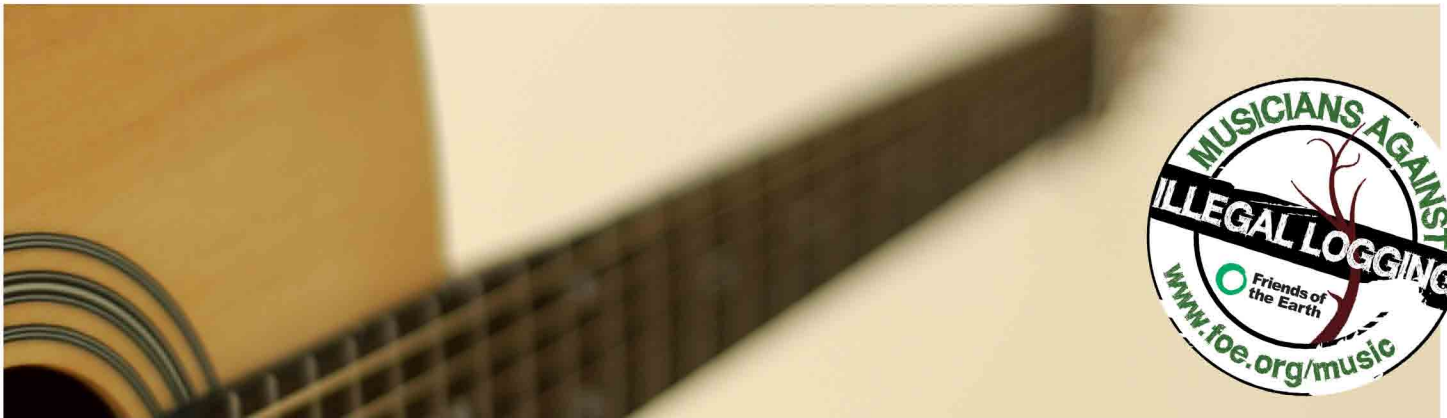


WHY IS NAMM

lobbying against protection of the world's forests in the name of music?



You may have heard lately from NAMM about how the Lacey Act, one of the United States' most important environmental laws, is threatening the music industry and needs to be "fixed". But don't be fooled: NAMM is NOT working to "fix" this law. Instead, NAMM is aggressively trying to gut the Lacey Act's effectiveness in fighting criminal illegal logging and trade, one of the most serious threats to the world's forests today.

You deserve to know the full story.

Q: Is NAMM telling you what you need to know about the Lacey Act?

Since Gibson Guitars was raided in August 2011, a lot of misinformation and fear-mongering has appeared in the press, painting the Lacey Act as a serious threat to musicians. This is simply not the truth. No individual has ever been investigated or had their instrument taken under the Lacey Act. Moreover, the U.S. government itself has said it's not after musicians:

"Individual consumers and musicians are not the focus of any FWS law enforcement investigations pertaining to the Lacey Act, and have no need for concern about confiscation of their instruments."¹
– U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*a key enforcement agency*)

Q: Is NAMM telling the truth?

The 2008 Amendments to the Lacey Act made it illegal to do business in *illegal wood products*. They did not make it "illegal to buy products that contain rare products or wood, nor to travel with them."² So why is NAMM telling you that under Lacey "it is illegal to import or own many types of imported wood and wood products"? This sort of misinformation only hurts NAMM members by creating unnecessary fear and confusion.

The government also exempted music instruments made before the Lacey Act's 2008 amendments from any customs declarations, and is considering further changes. NAMM could make a difference by sitting at the table with others to find consensus for these changes, and telling its members the real story. Instead NAMM has decided to step away from the table and attack.

NAMM claims to
“endorse responsible forest management
and efforts to prevent illegal logging.”

But in Washington,
it's doing just the opposite – in your name.



Q: Why is NAMM supporting a bill that protects criminals and threatens forests and hurts American jobs?

NAMM is now lobbying strongly for HR 3210, the so-called “RELIEF Act”. But this amendment to the Lacey Act would mainly provide relief to illegal loggers, not musicians. This bill contains huge loopholes for the benefit of pulp and paper companies cutting down Indonesia’s last rainforests, creates virtual impunity even for serious criminal offenders, and adds government bureaucracy at tax-payer expense. Many American forest and paper businesses oppose HR 3210 because it would actually lead to job losses and let bad companies actors off the hook. Even worse, the minor changes the music industry wants could be addressed without HR 3210. So why is NAMM using its energy and deep pockets to push this bill?

Q: Don't you believe that music and environmental protection should go hand in hand?

For years, musicians and instrument makers have recognized the power of music to give a voice to worthy causes like rainforest protection. Today many music merchants are making a huge effort to use legal and responsible wood, to replant rare species and to support communities who keep forests standing.

We hope that as a member of NAMM you would not want your name to be associated with destroying a law designed to protect the very forests and wood species upon which your great music ultimately depends. It's time to stand up to misguided Washington representatives and put the music industry back on a path of defending forests and guaranteeing a real future for your musical instruments.

If you agree that music sounds better when it's played on wood you can feel good about, join us in telling NAMM to stop lobbying for HR 3210 and against forests.

1 <http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2011/9/22/Where-We-Stand-The-Lacey-Act-and-our-Law-Enforcement-Work>

2 NAMM One-pager on the RELIEF Act: <http://www.namm.org/files/FINALReliefOnePager.pdf>

3 NAMM Factsheet: “NAMM Leading Efforts to Update the Lacey Act”



 **Friends of the Earth** www.foe.org/music

