

**** calling all forest advocates ****

SUPPORT SB 610

Public Input for Public Forests

What is SB 610?

It's a bill co-authored by Sen. John Ruckelshaus (R-Indianapolis) and Sen. Eric Bassler (R-Washington). If passed, Senate Bill 610 would:

- establish a state forest commission that will assess the current management of state forests and propose a (long-term) 100-year plan for their management.
- ensure that the commission includes forest advocates and ecologists.
- ensure that the study conducted by the commission includes citizen input.
- ensure that the plan clarify the purpose of each state forest area to achieve balance in the overall state forest system while recognizing multiple uses of recreation, ecosystem and wildlife habitat preservation, sustainable timber harvest and areas to be set aside from logging.
- establish procedures for wildlife inventory on all state forest lands to be logged.
- mandate a summary of the financial and environmental benefits of forest carbon balances and have a plan that considers the effects of climate change.

Could SB 610 be improved?

Yes. Forest advocates are seeking amendments to the bill that would:

- Require a management plan for each state forest.
- Include a temporary moratorium on logging while the commission creates the new plan in high conservation value areas totaling 10% of our state forests: the three Back Country Areas (including those within Yellowwood & Morgan-Monroe); established older growth areas in seven state forests; and a 220-yard-wide corridor along the Adventure, Knobstone, and Tecumseh Trails.

What action can I take?

- Call your Indiana state senator today (**800-832-9467**), ask him/her to support and cosponsor the bill, support the temporary moratorium amendment and to ask Sen. Sue Glick, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, to give this bill a hearing.
- Call Governor Holcomb (**317-232-4567**) and ask for his support in creating a new forest management plan for the benefit of all. THANK YOU!