



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

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Letters
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Dear Editor:

Shame on the Bee for trivializing the importance of forest management in California. Re: “Another mill closes” (August 29). Every lumber mill that shuts down makes us that much more dependent upon imported wood to meet our basic needs.

This should be a topic for serious discussion. We must look at the ecological impacts of what we are doing, such as increased logging in regions of the globe with less stringent forest practice standards than those we have here. And talk about pollution! – every day, large amounts of non-renewable fossil fuels are consumed by the ships, trains and trucks transporting massive quantities of wood products to our state. Some might consider this to be environmental imperialism.

We should also be debating the avoidable loss of high paying home-grown forestry jobs. Why have we surrendered market share in forest products to Canada, New Zealand and Chile? Is it really for valid reasons? Or is it just because of the marketing success of California’s environmental conflict industry, peddling its self-serving rhetoric of doom and destruction?

The Bee says that rural communities need to diversify their economies. California’s Registered Professional Foresters couldn’t agree more. But let’s not diversify ourselves out of the woods, especially when the Golden State is blessed with millions of acres of the most ecologically robust and sustainable forestlands in the world. The Bee should refer to your own recent “State of Denial” series, for a balanced assessment of what we face in the State.

Sincerely,

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