

# BUILDING INDUSTRY

## Greenpeace Co-Founder Speaks to HLPA

The Hawaii Lumber Products Association (HLPA) featured Dr. Patrick Moore, renowned environmentalist and co-founder of Greenpeace, as the keynote speaker at a Sept. 23rd meeting at the Ala Moana Hotel.

A strong advocate of sustainable forestry, Moore states early in his speech that, "It is possible, by working together and changing how we do things, to live without damaging the environment." In 2000, Moore published *Green Spirit — Trees are the Answer*, a photo book that provides insight into how forests work and how they can play a vital role in solving many current environmental problems.

"Deforestation," defines Moore, "is an ongoing process of continuous human interference due to agriculture, urban development and industry." He notes that "the three things we can do to prevent further loss of the world's forests have nothing to do with forestry." These are: population management; intensive agricultural production, because "the more food we can grow on a given piece of land, the less forest will be lost to grow it;" and urban densification. "There is actually only one significant cause of continuing forest loss in United States: 200 cities sprawling out over the landscape and permanently converting forest and farm to pavement. If we would design our cities for a higher density, more livable environment, we would not only save forests, we would also use less energy and materials." Moore points out that a large parking lot is the ultimate in deforestation and is the world's largest case of legalized toxic dumping. Though necessary and visually appealing, agricultural plots are monocultural, supporting only a small variety of species. On the other hand, forests support biodiversity as home to the majority of living species, including animals, birds and mammals.

Moore advocates a seeming paradox: the use of more wood to save forests. "The policy of use less wood

is anti-environmental because it would result in increased carbon dioxide emissions and a reduction in forested land. I believe the correct policy is a positive rather than a negative one. From an environmental perspective the correct policy is 'grow more trees and use more wood.'" To accomplish this, "we need to give the public a new pair of

eyes with which to see the landscape, to get beyond the immediate visual impression and to understand a little more about science, ecology, and biodiversity. This is perhaps the single most important task for the forest industry."



Dr. Patrick Moore

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