

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 509

To exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Future Logging Ca-
5 reers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHILD LABOR LAW EXEMPTIONS FOR LOGGING OP-**
7 **ERATIONS.**

8 The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.
9 201 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (29 U.S.C. 203), by adding at the end the following:

“(z) ‘Logging operation’—

“(1) means—

“(A) a mechanized operation;

“(B) the bucking or converting of timber into logs, poles, ties, bolts, pulpwood, chemical wood, excelsior wood, cordwood, fence posts, or similar products;

“(C) the collecting, skidding, yarding, loading, transporting, or unloading of such products in connection with the activities described in this paragraph;

“(D) the constructing, repairing, or maintaining of—

“(i) roads or camps used in connection with the activities described in this paragraph; or

“(ii) machinery or equipment used in the activities described in this paragraph; or

“(E) any other work performed in connection with the activities described in this paragraph; and

1 “(2) does not include the manual use of
 2 chainsaws to fell or process timber or the use of
 3 cable skidders to bring the timber to the landing.

4 “(aa) ‘Mechanized operation’—

5 “(1) means the felling, skidding, yarding, load-
 6 ing, or processing of timber by equipment other than
 7 manually operated chainsaws or cable skidders; and

8 “(2) includes the use of whole tree processors,
 9 cut-to-length processors, stroke boom delimbers,
 10 wheeled and track feller-bunchers, pull-through
 11 delimbers, wheeled and track forwarders, chippers,
 12 grinders, mechanical debarkers, wheeled and track
 13 grapple skidders, yarders, bulldozers, excavators,
 14 and log loaders.”; and

15 (2) in section 13(c) (29 U.S.C. 213(c)), by add-
 16 ing at the end the following:

17 “(8) The provisions of section 12 relating to child
 18 labor shall apply to an employee who is 16 or 17 years
 19 old employed in a logging operation in an occupation that
 20 the Secretary of Labor finds and declares to be particu-
 21 larly hazardous for the employment of children ages 16
 22 or 17, except where such employee is employed by his par-
 23 ent or by a person standing in the place of his parent in

- 1 a logging operation owned or operated by such parent or
- 2 person.”.

