

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5156

To protect publicly owned trees from unnecessary destruction, maiming, or alteration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To protect publicly owned trees from unnecessary destruction, maiming, or alteration, and for other purposes.

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 “Protect Public Trees
5 Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION.**

7 Section 131 of title 23, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(u) PROTECTION OF PUBLICLY OWNED PLANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), an individual or entity (including a gov-
3 ernmental entity) directly or indirectly may not mod-
4 ify, remove, or pile materials about any tree, plant,
5 or other vegetation that is partially or fully on a
6 public right-of-way adjacent to a highway of the
7 Interstate System or the primary system if a pur-
8 pose of such modification, removal, or piling of ma-
9 terials is to erect, maintain, repair, or improve the
10 visibility (including the future visibility) of privately
11 owned commercial outdoor advertising.

12 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) does not
13 apply if a purpose of the modification, removal, or
14 piling of materials described in paragraph (1) is to
15 improve or maintain safety.”.

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