

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Congressional Delegation
2 and Donald Trump, President of the United States, to enact measures to ensure a level
3 playing field for foreign and domestic hardwood producers and manufacturers.

4 WHEREAS, hardwood lumber manufacturing is a vital component to Kentucky's
5 economic growth and represents a substantial contribution across the state in the area of
6 employment through new job creation, innovation, and capital investment; and

7 WHEREAS, Kentucky's forest products industries account for an economic impact
8 of greater than \$14 billion and employ more than 60,000 people in the primary industries
9 such as loggers and sawmills and in producers of finished products such as mouldings,
10 millworks, bourbon barrels, cabinetry, flooring, and paper products; and

11 WHEREAS, the forest products industry in the United States accounts for four
12 percent of the gross domestic product for total manufacturing, employs nearly 900,000
13 people, and produces \$210 billion in products annually; and

14 WHEREAS, increasing hardwood lumber manufacturing will improve job creation
15 and capital investment in Kentucky while simultaneously stimulating the economy and
16 improving the supply chain for wood products for consumers across the United States;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the raw materials consumed by hardwood producers in Kentucky have
19 been processed responsibly for generations by producers being held accountable through
20 forest management and sustainable manufacturing practices; and

21 WHEREAS, the supply of raw materials is now in jeopardy due to exportation of
22 raw hardwood timber to foreign consumers, notably China, where the demand for
23 American hardwood logs continues to rise exponentially; and

24 WHEREAS, government subsidization of Chinese companies in the form of tax
25 concessions artificially increases the value of raw hardwood timber products from the
26 United States and counterbalances the fair market price; and

27 WHEREAS, despite the United States hardwood lumber industry employing

1 innovative manufacturing practices, the industry is experiencing a potentially catastrophic
2 decline due to the supply of raw timber being sold overseas before domestic
3 manufacturing can finish the product; and

4 WHEREAS, after years of unsustainable forest management practices, the Chinese
5 government has undertaken a robust national reforestation program while cracking down
6 on illegal forest clearing; and

7 WHEREAS, Russia and France have taken action to prevent exportation of logs by
8 imposing stringent tariff schedules and in some cases prohibiting log exports; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States hardwood industry needs tariff protection as well as
10 action from federal, state, and local authorities to halt unfair practices that hinder the
11 industry;

12 NOW, THEREFORE,

13 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
14 *Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:*

15 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky Congressional Delegation and President Donald
16 Trump should take all necessary action to defend the hardwood industry from unfair and
17 illegal practices by foreign exporters of raw hardwood timber and specifically Chinese
18 exports of raw hardwoods.

19 ➔Section 2. The Kentucky and United States hardwood lumber industry requests
20 that measures be enacted to ensure a level playing field for all market entrants both
21 foreign and domestic so that the quality wood products and economic growth are
22 maintained.

23 ➔Section 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to members of the Kentucky
24 Congressional Delegation and to President Donald Trump.