

1           A RESOLUTION encouraging Kentucky grocers to offer paper grocery bags as an  
2 alternative to plastic grocery bags.

3           WHEREAS, forests cover nearly one-half of Kentucky and provide a wide range of  
4 both economic and noneconomic benefits to the Commonwealth; and

5           WHEREAS, the primary economic contributor of Kentucky forests is derived from  
6 the utilization of timber and wood resources; and

7           WHEREAS, according to the University of Kentucky's 2015 Forestry Economic  
8 Impact Report, Kentucky's forest and wood industries employ over 28,000 individuals  
9 and have an estimated direct economic impact of \$9.1 billion and a total economic impact  
10 of \$14.6 billion; and

11           WHEREAS, the huge economic impact of the forest and wood industries is  
12 generated from forests located in all 120 counties of the Commonwealth providing  
13 resources harvested by over 1,200 logging firms and processed at 713 facilities located in  
14 109 counties including sawmills, pulp mills, and paper mills; and

15           WHEREAS, paper represents a sizeable portion of Kentucky's forestry sector at an  
16 estimated \$5.2 billion overall, including pulp and paper manufacturing and paper  
17 converters; and

18           WHEREAS, a young forest is a lesser known but equally important type of habitat  
19 that is created by shoots and sprouts of young trees from the root systems of older trees  
20 following timber harvests like those necessary for the production of wood pulp and paper  
21 products; and

22           WHEREAS, young forests created by timber harvests are essential to the survival of  
23 many rare and common species of wildlife including bobcats, ruffed grouse, wood turtles,  
24 wild turkeys, and a wide variety of songbirds; and

25           WHEREAS, paper grocery bags are a heavier-duty alternative to single-use plastic  
26 bags for packing, transporting, and unloading customer purchases; and

27           WHEREAS, increased use of and demand for paper grocery bags would almost

1 certainly benefit the Kentucky pulp and paper industry as well as Kentucky's forestry  
2 industry as a whole and could potentially lead to further job growth within the  
3 Commonwealth.

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. This honorable body encourages all Kentucky grocers to offer paper  
8 grocery bags to customers as an alternative to plastic single-use grocery bags in order to  
9 help support and further grow the Kentucky pulp and paper industry.

10 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this  
11 Resolution and notification of its adoption to the Kentucky Grocers and Convenience  
12 Store Association, 340 Democrat Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.