

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF MANAGING MONTANA'S AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTED LANDS FOR TERRESTRIAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

WHEREAS, effectively managing agricultural and forested lands in Montana can increase the amount of carbon that can be stored in the soil; and

WHEREAS, carbon offset trading is creating new, potential financial incentives for landowners to maintain forests and agricultural lands and can provide another source of revenue for many foresters, farmers, and ranchers of the state of Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) evaluate the feasibility of terrestrial carbon sequestration in forests, agricultural lands, and conservation areas in Montana;
- (2) analyze estimates of the costs and benefits of carbon-enhancing land uses and management practices in Montana;
- (3) evaluate incentives for private landowners to manage forests and agricultural lands to increase their carbon capture potential;
- (4) evaluate the state's ability to use or lease state trust lands for terrestrial carbon sequestration; and
- (5) identify public policy options for increasing terrestrial carbon sequestration on private and public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee engage diverse groups, including Montana's university system, in identifying opportunities to implement optimal terrestrial carbon sequestration strategies for Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.



