

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 165

By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to express support for wood products sourced from Tennessee's forests.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's forests are important to the environment, economy, and the people of our state; and

WHEREAS, there is current and credible information available to the public regarding the forests and forest industry of Tennessee, such as the *Tennessee Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy* compiled by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, a recent amendment to federal law (the Lacey Act) prohibits United States manufacturers from trading in illegally-sourced wood and requires declaration of origin of wood used in products; and

WHEREAS, as detailed in *Assessment of Lawful Harvesting & Sustainability of US Hardwood Exports*, land tenure is generally well established, and logging activity is covered by property law, and illegal logging is a minor occurrence in the United States in relation to overall forestry activity; and

WHEREAS, as documented by the United States Forest Service's *Forest Inventory and Analysis National Program*, the forest land area of Tennessee is relatively stable, forest harvest and natural mortality consistently have been much less than forest growth, and forest inventory (standing wood volume) has increased significantly over the past few decades; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing demand by building certification programs and consumers for wood products that carry with them assurance that they are legally sourced from sustainable forests; and

WHEREAS Tennessee's forest industry comprises many small companies that are largely supplied with wood sourced from many small, private forest landowners; and

WHEREAS, this fragmented supply base is discouraged by economies of scale from participating in existing forest certification programs; and

WHEREAS, almost all the trees in Tennessee's forests are native species and have not been genetically modified; and

WHEREAS, threatened and endangered species are protected by law; and

WHEREAS, there is a well-established Master Logger program in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the report, *Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices in Tennessee*, found that forestry activities have few adverse effects on water quality in this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby express our support for wood products sourced from Tennessee's forests, recognizing that the forests of Tennessee provide many benefits, including a source of legitimate wood products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.