

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 482

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION designating February 24, 2018, as "Tennessee Tree Day".

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the most biologically diverse inland state in these United States; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a state of robust forest cover; and

WHEREAS, forests, trees, and forest cover provide a myriad of benefits to Tennessee's economy, community, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, ongoing human development is responsible for the loss of trees and forest cover every year; and

WHEREAS, there is no statewide coordinated and concerted effort to replace these trees or the forest cover they provide; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Environmental Council has been organizing large-scale, statewide tree-planting events that have grown from 5,000 trees in 2007 in a few Tennessee counties, to 100,000 trees in 2017 in all ninety-five counties, engaging approximately 20,000 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, over 29,000 Tennesseans have participated in these events since 2007, and the demand for trees is perpetual; and

WHEREAS, partnerships and cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and many local community organizations are integral to successful events; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Council is aiming to plant 250,000 seedlings on the last Saturday of February, February 24, 2018; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate February 24, 2018, as "Tennessee Tree Day" during which Tennesseans are encouraged to participate in tree-planting events in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Environmental Council is recognized as the leading organization driving these events and will continue offering tree seedlings, educational information, and coordination as community support, resources, and capacity allow.