



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2086/1
CMH:wlj

2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 23

March 24, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives KRUG, E. BROOKS, EDMING, HUTTON, JACQUE, KULP, MEYERS, MILROY, MACCO, MURPHY, MURSAU, RIPP, ROHRKASTE, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, STEFFEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TUSLER and VANDERMEER, cosponsored by Senators TESTIN, TIFFANY, BEWLEY, COWLES, LASEE, PETROWSKI and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April 2017 as Forestry and Paper Products Month.

2 Whereas, Wisconsin has nearly 17 million acres of public and private forests,
3 managed by the forest products industry, nonindustrial private landowners, and
4 county, state, and tribal agencies, which provide the essential raw material for the
5 state's forest products and paper industry along with a myriad of benefits; and

6 Whereas, the forest products industry—composed of the logging, pulp and
7 paper, lumber and wood products, and printing industries—significantly contributes
8 to Wisconsin's economic health and well-being by employing more than 54,000
9 women and men in family-supporting jobs whose annual income exceeds \$3.3
10 billion; and

11 Whereas, the forest products industry contributes an estimated \$238 million
12 in state and local taxes; and

13 Whereas, Wisconsin's forest products industry accounts for 13.2 percent of
14 manufacturing jobs, is the number one employer in 23 counties, and every 10 forest

1 industry jobs support an additional 23 jobs in other sectors of the state's economy;
2 and

3 Whereas, the products of Wisconsin's pulp, paper, lumber, and wood
4 manufacturing industries shipments are worth more than \$18.3 billion annually,
5 including more than \$14.3 billion in pulp and paper products and more than \$4
6 billion in lumber and wood products; and

7 Whereas, Wisconsin's papermakers employ more than 30,000 men and women,
8 earning more than \$2.4 billion in family-supporting salaries; Wisconsin's 19,269
9 lumber and wood products employees earn more than \$862 million; and the state's
10 4,644 forestry and logging workers earn more than \$38 million; and

11 Whereas, papermaking began in 1848, three months before Wisconsin became
12 a state, and paper manufacturing has been a cornerstone of the state's economy for
13 more than 165 years, and in fact Wisconsin has led the nation in paper
14 manufacturing for more than 60 years; and

15 Whereas, Wisconsin produces a greater diversity of paper products than any
16 other state in the four main categories of packaging, communication (printing and
17 writing), tissue, and specialty grades; and

18 Whereas, Wisconsin's lumber and wood products industry predates the state,
19 leads the nation in millwork production, and is third nationally in hardwood veneer
20 output; and

21 Whereas, the industry's products are societal staples that include lumber and
22 wood material for homes as well as other residential, commercial, industrial,
23 municipal, and agricultural buildings, plus essentials and amenities including
24 cabinets, furniture and fixtures, windows, pallets and shipping materials, posts and

1 poles, fuel wood, and biomass for energy and other purposes, as well as Christmas
2 trees; and

3 Whereas, Wisconsin's nearly 17 million acres of forest lands and its millions of
4 urban trees significantly enhance the quality of life in our great state, contribute to
5 water quality, support and enhance soil quality, provide habitat and sustenance for
6 terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and offer four-season recreational and
7 aesthetic opportunities to residents and visitors of all ages; and

8 Whereas, Wisconsin forests are growing one-and-a-half-times more timber
9 than is being harvested each year, with saw timber volume increasing by 1.68 billion
10 board-feet annually; and

11 Whereas, the forest products industry in Wisconsin supports sustainable
12 forestry to maintain woodlands as healthy, complex ecosystems that provide
13 ecological, social, and economic benefits today and for future generations; and

14 Whereas, 7.2 million forested acres—including county, state, tribal, private
15 nonindustrial, and private industrial ownerships—are third-party certified as
16 "sustainably managed" regarding widely accepted forest practices and standards,
17 and most of this forest land (public and private) is open for hunting, hiking,
18 bird-watching, and other recreational activities; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
20 Wisconsin legislature proclaim April 2017 as Forestry and Paper Products Month in
21 Wisconsin and commend this observance to all citizens; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature calls upon our citizens to learn more about the
23 important role the forest products industry plays in our economy and environment;
24 and, be it further

1 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
2 resolution to the Council on Forestry, the Wisconsin Paper Discovery Center, the
3 Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at the College of Natural Resources
4 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin River Papermaking
5 Museum, and the Wisconsin County Forestry Association.

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(END)