

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND URGING THAT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL,
3 AND OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS INCLUDE SAFE, RENEWABLE, AND ENVIRONMEN-
4 TALLY FRIENDLY WOOD PRODUCTS GROWN AND PRODUCED IN IDAHO IN THEIR BUILD-
5 ING AND CONSTRUCTION PLANS.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, Idaho forests contribute beauty, ecology, economy, and cul-
8 ture to our state; and

9 WHEREAS, forests are dynamic, move through a predictable cycle, and
10 undergo changes that create the conditions for many different species of
11 plants and animals, with each stage of the cycle laying the groundwork for
12 the next. As trees go through the natural process of growing, from seed to
13 seedling, maturity, and eventually death and decomposition, their forest
14 home evolves; and

15 WHEREAS, Idaho has 21.5 million acres of forestland spanning from the
16 Canadian border to the southern border of the state, ranking 10th in the na-
17 tion in forestland, 12th in timberland, and 5th in wilderness. Idaho forests
18 cover 85,557 square miles, which is larger than the states of Vermont, New
19 Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island combined; and

20 WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments own and manage the ma-
21 jority of forestlands in Idaho. National forests occupy nearly 40 percent of
22 Idaho's land mass, more than any other state. Of the 21.5 million acres of
23 total forestlands in Idaho, 16.5 million acres are designated as timberland.
24 Of that number, only 9.3 million acres are available for harvest; and

25 WHEREAS, a smaller portion of Idaho's forestlands are owned by thou-
26 sands of private businesses, Native American tribes, families, and in-
27 dividuals. Forestlands in Idaho and throughout the West present unique
28 challenges because of the large influence of federal ownership and manage-
29 ment; and

30 WHEREAS, forests and their inhabitants face many threats, including
31 natural catastrophic events such as severe wildfires and insect and disease
32 outbreaks. Although such events are natural, and an important aspect of the
33 forest ecosystem, they are often influenced by excessive buildup of fuels
34 and changes in tree species and age, all of which can be the result of human
35 action or inaction; and

36 WHEREAS, a healthy, growing forest is less susceptible to insects, dis-
37 ease, and devastating fire. Active forest management helps our forests stay
38 resilient; and

39 WHEREAS, forest management is a simple term for a complex array of ac-
40 tivities and experiences that allow landowners to meet specified goals and
41 objectives while maintaining the productivity of their forestland. With
42 good stewardship practices and the incredible advances in technology, Idaho

1 forests can be sustainably managed to meet environmental, economic, and
2 social needs for today and generations to come; and

3 WHEREAS, studies show that wood is a strong, safe, and environmentally
4 friendly building material that meets building codes and often costs less
5 than other materials. Studies and utilization demonstrate that wood has the
6 structural capability for utilization in a range of low-rise to mid-rise
7 residential and nonresidential buildings. A scientific evaluation by life
8 cycle analysis of the overall impacts of building materials measuring the
9 energy and resources used to create the material and the lifetime emissions
10 to the air, water, and land shows that compared to other building materials
11 wood performs better in many ways, including being renewable and the only
12 building material that captures and stores carbon, keeping it out of the
13 atmosphere indefinitely; and

14 WHEREAS, there are many types of wood products produced from Idaho
15 timber; lumber and other structural building products such as dimensional
16 lumber, solid beams, laminated beams, shingles, joists, laminated veneer
17 lumber, finger-jointed lumber, and engineered wood products; millwork used
18 for doors, windows, cabinets, furniture, siding, flooring, moldings, fenc-
19 ing, and shipping pallets; panel products such as plywood, particleboard,
20 and hardboard, posts, poles, and timbers such as utility poles, house logs,
21 fence posts, pilings, treated timbers, cross-arms, and railroad ties; wood
22 composite products such as siding, roofing, medium-density fiberboard, and
23 molding; as well as pulp and paper products from wood fiber including packag-
24 ing for food and products, newsprint, bathroom and facial tissue, and paper
25 toweling; and

26 WHEREAS, there are over 200 forest product manufacturing and wholesal-
27 ing businesses in Idaho, including dozens of sawmills, producers of parti-
28 cleboard, clean chips, pulp and paper, bioenergy, and bark and mulch prod-
29 ucts, producers of pole, log furniture and firewood, log home manufacturers,
30 cedar products mills, and plywood and veneer facilities. Idaho's loggers
31 and truckers do the risky business of harvesting and hauling logs and wood
32 products, and their jobs help to support the economies of rural communities;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, today's building codes are developed by experts, such as code
35 officials, fire officials, architects, and engineers, through a rigorous
36 three-year process to ensure the safety of all building materials. Building
37 codes recognize the latest advances in technology and allow wood to be used
38 in a range of low-rise to mid-rise residential and nonresidential buildings;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, the timber industry contributes to healthy forests, healthy
41 communities, and healthy economies.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
43 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
44 the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature urges that fed-
45 eral, state, local, and other building projects include as much safe, renew-
46 able, and environmentally friendly wood products grown and produced in Idaho
47 as possible in their building and construction plans.