

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY SENATORS THOMPSON AND PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate April 20, 2016, as "Forest Products Day" at the legislature and commend the forest products industry.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's forest lands cover forty-eight percent of the state's thirteen million, eight hundred thousand acres; and

WHEREAS, forest lands provide raw materials for paper and wood product manufacturers, recreational opportunities for the general public, and habitat for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry has been a key component of Louisiana's economy since the first paper mill in the state opened in 1716; and

WHEREAS, timber is the number one crop in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is Louisiana's second largest manufacturing sector employer in the state, employing more than eighteen thousand people in forty-five parishes; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry pays an estimated ninety-two million in state and local taxes and has an annual payroll of over one billion annually; and

WHEREAS, forest product companies are committed to continuous improvement through the industry's initiative, Better Practices, Better Planet 2020; and

WHEREAS, Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 is the latest example of the forest products industry's commitment to the long-term success of the industry, its communities, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy, which exceeds the total energy produced from solar, wind, and geothermal sources combined; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry's voluntary recycling goal led to paper recovery for recycling reaching over sixty-five percent in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the American Forest & Paper Association was created to advance a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association was established in 1992 to advocate on behalf of the state's pulp, paper, and forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Forestry Association was created in 1947 with the mission to promote the health and productivity of Louisiana's forests for present and future generations through the practice of sustainable forestry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate April 20, 2016, as "Forest Products Day" at the legislature and commends the forest products industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the American Forest & Paper Association, the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association, and the Louisiana Forestry Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES