
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 375 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, CAUSER, DUSH, GABLER, SANKEY, SONNEY, BAKER,
MILLARD, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, KIRKLAND, COHEN, VEREB,
FARINA, HARHART, BOBACK, A. HARRIS, ROZZI, WHEELAND,
HENNESSEY, MURT, IRVIN, GROVE, THOMAS, GIBBONS, EVERETT,
JOZWIAK, YOUNGBLOOD, ZIMMERMAN AND WATSON, JUNE 5, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 5, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 5, 2015, as "PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In October 1994, the American Forest & Paper
4 Association (AF&PA) announced a landmark program for its
5 membership, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC)
7 was formed in 1995 and began meeting monthly in State College;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, It was quickly decided that the Hardwood Lumber
10 Manufacturers Association of Pennsylvania, which is now the
11 Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, would house and
12 provide administrative support to the newly formed SIC; and

13 WHEREAS, The guidelines required that AF&PA members practice
14 sustainable forestry on their own lands and educate loggers and
15 nonindustrial landowners on sustainable forestry; and

16 WHEREAS, Given that the majority of private forestland in

1 this Commonwealth is owned by more than one-half million
2 nonindustrial private forest landowners, it was a challenge to
3 develop the SFI program; and

4 WHEREAS, The early focus of the SIC was the establishment of
5 a logger training program, educational outreach to landowners
6 and the public and the development of a Best Management
7 Practices (BMP) monitoring system for measuring success; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 7,000 individuals have participated in the
9 logger program over the last 20 years, with approximately 700
10 participants maintaining a current training status each year and
11 some loggers having completed more than 100 hours of total
12 training; and

13 WHEREAS, Over 26,000 landowner outreach packets have been
14 distributed, and the information in the outreach packets is
15 accessible to a wider audience through the SFI website; and

16 WHEREAS, The benefits of the training program were further
17 recognized and bolstered when the Bureau of Forestry adopted a
18 policy in 2007 that required all commercial timber harvesting
19 activities on the Commonwealth's 2.2 million acres of forestland
20 to be led by an SFI trained logger; and

21 WHEREAS, More recently, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has
22 also recognized the benefits of the training program and
23 encourages its loggers to also participate; and

24 WHEREAS, People of all ages and backgrounds from across the
25 United States and Canada came together last month to break the
26 Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour by
27 small teams; and

28 WHEREAS, Organized by the national SFI, more than 200,000
29 trees were planted simultaneously in 28 different communities.
30 Two groups of representatives from industry, the Pennsylvania

1 Bureau of Forestry and other groups were part of the
2 Pennsylvania effort, which included 45 planters and 3,957 trees
3 planted in the Moshannon State Forest and 56 planters and 3,366
4 trees planted in the Tuscarora State Forest; therefore be it
5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 5,
6 2015, as "PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day" in
7 Pennsylvania.