

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 144

Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.

Whereas forests, covering one-third of the land in the United States, provide all citizens, clean drinking water, clean air, abundant wildlife habitat, renewable wood for buildings, furniture, energy, and paper needs, space to recreate, as well as good-paying jobs across the Nation;

Whereas most of the Nation's forests are owned by the people who reside and steward our rural regions, families, and individuals;

Whereas 75 years ago, the American Tree Farm System was founded to help family and individual woodland owners sustain their forests and the benefits we all receive from them;

Whereas with more than 79,000 individuals and families, who combined manage more than 20,500,000 acres of forest, the American Tree Farm System remains a strong and essential program today to conserve and manage the Nation's forests and their benefits, especially in the face of growing pressures such as wildfires, invasive insects and diseases, and development pressures;

Whereas tree farmers invest time, manpower, and personal funds to practice sustainable forest management on their working land so we can enjoy all the benefits these forests provide us;

Whereas the American Tree Farm System is made possible by volunteers from the local small woodlands associations, conservation organizations, State forestry agencies, forest products companies, and university extensions;

Whereas to support our family forests and family woodland owners and support continued voluntary conservation on working forests, it's important to expand the reach of the American Tree Farm System to additional woodland owners; and

Whereas a similar resolution has now been proclaimed in 14 States across the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the
4 American Tree Farm System;

5 (2) encourages the public to participate in ac-
6 tivities that celebrate this day with appropriate cere-
7 monies and activities that recognize the importance

1 of this vital program, working family-owned forests,
2 the clean water, wildlife habitat, and wood supply
3 they provide for the people of the United States; and
4 (3) supports conservation and management of
5 the Nation's trees and forests through landowner
6 participation in the Conservation Reserve Program,
7 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the
8 Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Forest
9 Stewardship Program, as authorized by the Agricul-
10 tural Act of 2014 and previous Farm Bills.

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