

No. R-415. House concurrent resolution congratulating the American Tree Farm System on its 75th anniversary.

(H.C.R.326)

Offered by: Representatives Potter of Clarendon, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clarkson of Woodstock, Connor of Fairfield, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Eastman of Orwell, Feltus of Lyndon, Graham of Williamstown, Haas of Rochester, Jewett of Ripton, Krebs of South Hero, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morrissey of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Pearce of Richford, Quimby of Concord, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith of New Haven, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Toleno of Brattleboro, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Woodward of Johnson, and Zagar of Barnard

Whereas, forests cover one-third of the land in the United States, provide Vermonters and all Americans with clean drinking water; clean air; abundant wildlife habitat; renewable wood for buildings, furniture, energy, and paper; recreation; and good paying jobs, and

Whereas, most of our country's forests are under the ownership of individuals and families—the citizens of our nation, and

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

Whereas, with more than 500 individuals and families, who combined own more than 140,000 acres in Vermont, the ATFS remains a strong and essential program today to conserve our State's forests and their benefits, especially in the face of growing pressures such as wildfires, insects, diseases, and development pressures, and

Whereas, tree farmers invest time, manpower, and personal funds to practice sustainable forestry management on their land for all Vermonters' mutual benefit, and

Whereas, volunteers from the Vermont Woodlands Association, the Vermont Tree Farm Committee, conservation organizations, the University of Vermont Extension, forest products companies, and the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation all provide volunteer services that make ATFS possible, and

Whereas, the General Assembly has a history of supporting the State's family forests and woodland owners, and

Whereas, June 12, 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of ATFS, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates June 12, 2016 as American Tree Farm System Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That to commemorate this event, Vermonters are encouraged to participate in ceremonies and activities that recognize the importance of family-owned forests and the many resources they provide for Vermonters and all Americans, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Tree Farm System.