

No. R-458. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of forests and forestry-related industries in Vermont in commemoration of Arbor Day.

(H.C.R.384)

Offered by: Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Whereas, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 372, the first Friday in May is Arbor Day in Vermont and is a great occasion to celebrate Vermont's forests, and

Whereas, 75 percent of the State, or 4.6 million acres, is forested, and

Whereas, forests provide clean water for drinking, recreation, and habitat and in some instances can eliminate expenditures would have been needed to develop manmade infrastructure to ensure clean water, and

Whereas, each acre of forestland stores 107 metric tons of carbon, the equivalent of annual emissions from 83 vehicles, and Vermont forests store approximately 480 million metric tons of carbon, and

Whereas, forests provide the habitat for a large number of wildlife species and are either the home of or closely associated with 75 percent of Vermont's native species, and

Whereas, forests and forestry-related industries are critical to the economic vitality of Vermont, and

Whereas, annualized economic data from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation document this statement, and

Whereas, the basic forestry industry, including logging and trucking, generates \$45 million in output and the full-time equivalent of 875 jobs, and

Whereas, wood product manufacturing injects \$239 million into the State's economy and is responsible for over 2,300 jobs, and

Whereas, the comparable figures for the wood energy industry are \$60 million and 300 jobs, and

Whereas, the quintessential Vermont art of maple sugaring results in 46 percent of U.S.-produced maple syrup originating in our State, equaling two million gallons of syrup annually, and

Whereas, forestry-centered recreation supports 10,050 jobs, with a 158-million-dollar payroll and revenues of \$1.9 billion, and

Whereas, fall foliage sparks \$460 million in tourists' expenditures on food, lodging, and other purchases, slightly over 25 percent of Vermont's tourism revenue, and

Whereas, it is undeniable that forests are an environmental and economic linchpin of Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of forests and forestry-related industries in Vermont in commemoration of Arbor Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Vermont Woodlands Association, and the Vermont Forest Products Association.