**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR, COMMEMORATE, AND CONGRATULATE THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION ON ITS NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY ON APRIL 26, 2017 AND TO WISH THE AGENCY ANOTHER NINETY YEARS OF PROSPEROUS SERVICE.

Whereas, South Carolina forestry generates an annual impact of $21 billion to the State’s economy and is the largest manufacturing sector in terms of jobs, labor income, and value-added products. Forest products are the number one export commodity from the Port of Charleston and are the State’s largest harvested crop; and

Whereas, consistently over the past ninety years, the South Carolina Forestry Commission has proven its dedication to performing its statutory mission of protecting, promoting, nurturing, and enhancing the State’s forest resources; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects thirteen million acres of forestland in its effort to suppress wildfires in unincorporated areas of the State and to train residents about the legal, responsible use of prescribed fire; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Forestry Commission also monitors, reports on, and provides for the suppression of endemic pests affecting forest trees in South Carolina; and

Whereas, in order to protect the quality of the State’s water resources as well, the South Carolina Forestry Commission develops harvesting guidelines for loggers and landowners and monitors their compliance; and

Whereas, a vital resource during natural disasters, the South Carolina Forestry Commission operates the State’s only Type II Incident Management Team, in cooperation with SLED and SCEMD, to provide high level emergency response, coordination, logistics, operations, communications, and support; and

Whereas, overall, the South Carolina Forestry Commission operates five state forests, on which it demonstrates the principles of proper forest management and promotes timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetics; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Forestry Commission’s reforestation programs help ensure a constant, sustainable supply of wood for the State’s forest products industry; and

Whereas, the Commission further nurtures the State’s forests by contributing to the genetic improvement of trees, educating landowners on tree genetics and seedling selection and providing millions of genetically improved tree seedlings every year; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Forestry Commission also addresses the interface between people, the urban environment, and trees through a synergistic combination of forestry, horticulture, arboriculture, landscape architecture, and urban planning; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Forestry Commission promotes a proper awareness and appreciation among landowners, students, and the general public of the economic, ecological, and societal benefits of forestry and conservation; and

Whereas, in 2017, the South Carolina Forestry Commission celebrates its ninth decade of environmental service to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, honor, commemorate, and congratulate the South Carolina Forestry Commission on its ninetieth anniversary on April 26, 2017 and wish the agency another ninety years of prosperous service.

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