**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED TREE FARM PROGRAM FOR THEIR WISE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that 2016 marks the seventy‑fifth anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, which has provided the Palmetto State with trees for today, as well as for the future, through the farsighted stewardship of South Carolina’s forest resources; and

Whereas, in 1941, when forestry on private lands was beginning to emerge, a small group of foresters created the American Tree Farm System to encourage and promote reforestation and good land‑management practices for present and future generations; and

Whereas, having begun in the Pacific Northwest, the American Tree Farm System had spread to all fifty states by 1975. In 2016, the American Tree Farm System is celebrating three quarters of a century of advocating and following prudent forest practices in this great country; and

Whereas, the system has made enormous contributions in nurturing South Carolina forests for the benefit of all; and

Whereas, before it became fashionable to plant trees and care for our forests, foresters volunteering with the American Tree Farm System were encouraging, through a program of recognizing sustainable forest stewardship, the planting and nurturing of forests on private lands; and

Whereas, the American Tree Farm System and the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program are shining lights in South Carolina’s early commitment to conservation, demonstrated by their work to protect forest resources while also providing forest products for the citizens of South Carolina and all other Americans; and

Whereas, as residents of one of this nation’s leading states in the production of forest products, South Carolinians have recognized, and will continue to recognize, the critical role trees play in South Carolina toward the provision of wood and paper products, clean water and air, recreation, and the protection of wildlife. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the American Tree Farm System and the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program for their wise management of our forest resources, and congratulate the American Tree Farm System on the occasion of its seventy‑fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the American Tree Farm System and the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program.

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