

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 547

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

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

Whereas forests, covering one-third of the land in the United States, provide clean air and drinking water, abundant wildlife habitats, recreation spaces, and renewable resources for buildings, furniture, energy, and paper needs, and also serve as an economic driver supporting well-paying jobs across the country;

Whereas most of the forests of the United States are owned by families and individuals who reside in and steward rural regions;

Whereas, in 1941, the American Tree Farm System (in this preamble referred to as the “ATFS”) was founded to help family and individual woodland owners sustain forests and the benefits that the forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is composed of more than 79,000 individuals and families, who together manage more than 20,500,000 acres of forest;

Whereas the ATFS remains a strong and essential program to conserve and manage the forests of the United States and the benefits forests provide, especially in the face of challenges like wildfires, invasive insects and diseases, and growing development pressures;

Whereas tree farmers invest time, manpower, and personal funds to practice sustainable forest management so that people across the United States can enjoy the benefits forests provide;

Whereas the ATFS is made possible by volunteers from local small woodlands associations, conservation organizations, State forestry agencies, forest products companies, and the Cooperative Extension System;

Whereas, to support family forests, family woodland owners, and continued voluntary conservation of working forests, it is important to expand the reach of ATFS to additional woodland owners; and

Whereas 14 States in the United States have approved similar resolutions recognizing the importance of the ATFS: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

4 (2) encourages the public to participate in ac-
5 tivities that celebrate the anniversary and highlight
6 the importance of this vital program, working fam-

1 ily-owned forests, and the clean water, wildlife habi-
2 tats, and wood supply that forests provide for all
3 people in the United States; and

4 (3) supports conservation and management of
5 the trees and forests of the United States through
6 landowner participation in—

7 (A) the conservation reserve program es-
8 tablished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of
9 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act
10 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.);

11 (B) the environmental quality incentives
12 program established under chapter 4 of subtitle
13 D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985
14 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.);

15 (C) the conservation stewardship program
16 established under subchapter B of chapter 2 of
17 subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act
18 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838d et seq.);

19 (D) the agricultural conservation easement
20 program established under subtitle H of title
21 XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
22 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.); and

23 (E) the forest stewardship program estab-
24 lished under section 5 of the Cooperative For-

1 estry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
2 2103a).

