

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 30

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the Classified Forest and Wildlands Program and urging increased state funding for the Division of Forestry.

Tomes

February 13, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



Introduced

Second Regular Session 121st General Assembly (2020)

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 30

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION honoring the Department of
2 Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the Classified
3 Forest and Wildlands Program and urging increased state
4 funding for the Division of Forestry.

5 *Whereas, The work of Indiana's Department of Natural*
6 *Resources Division of Forestry supports multiple uses of*
7 *Indiana's public and privately owned forests, including*
8 *recreation, hunting, and fostering a healthy fish and wildlife*
9 *population;*

10 *Whereas, The Division of Forestry's Classified Forest and*
11 *Wildlands Program encourages timber production, watershed*
12 *protection, and wildlife habitat management on private lands*
13 *in Indiana;*

14 *Whereas, Retirements and resignations, combined with*
15 *extended delays in refilling positions due to budget constraints,*
16 *are limiting the ability of the Division of Forestry to service*
17 *private landowners and effectively manage the growing*
18 *Classified Forest and Wildlands Program;*

19 *Whereas, The Classified Forest and Wildlands Program*



1 *has been an excellent incentive in keeping Indiana's private*
2 *forests intact, has allowed marginal ground to revert to forests,*
3 *and has helped landowners increase our state's forest base by*
4 *more than four times in less than a century, serving as a model*
5 *for other states to emulate;*

6 *Whereas, The enrolled acreage in the Classified Forest and*
7 *Wildlands Program has grown by 80% in the past 15 years,*
8 *and the Division of Forestry overall is supporting 375,000*
9 *more acres with \$2 million less funding compared to Fiscal*
10 *Years 2010 and 2011 levels;*

11 *Whereas, The Classified Forest and Wildlands Program*
12 *requires written forest management plans, and district foresters*
13 *are essential to providing landowners the expertise required to*
14 *understand and complete these plans;*

15 *Whereas, The Program's efforts result in healthier,*
16 *sustainable forests which, among other benefits, provide over*
17 *99% of the timber that feeds the hardwoods industry - Indiana's*
18 *largest agricultural industry;*

19 *Whereas, Proper forest management by the Division of*
20 *Forestry also provides many other benefits to Indiana,*
21 *including mitigating the effects of a changing climate, clean*
22 *water and air, flood and fire suppression, wildlife habitat,*
23 *control of invasive species and disease and pest infestations,*
24 *and enhancing quality of life and recreational opportunities;*

25 *Whereas, The forest products industry, outdoor recreation*
26 *industry, and Indiana's quality of place are all critical to*
27 *making Indiana a diverse and attractive option for our citizens*
28 *and workforce; and*

29 *Whereas, The stretched financial resources provided to the*
30 *Division of Forestry hampers the Division's ability to effectively*
31 *oversee the state's public forests: Therefore,*



1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

3 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate honors the Indiana
4 Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and the
5 Classified Forests and Wildlands Program for its management
6 of Indiana's forest resources.

7 SECTION 2. That the Indiana Senate urges the restoration
8 of funding to the Division of Forestry to levels adequate to meet
9 the needs of Indiana's private forest landowners while
10 maintaining and growing Indiana's state forests.

11 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
12 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Indiana Department
13 of Natural Resources, the Division of Forestry, the Indiana
14 Forest Alliance, and the Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's
15 Association.

