**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM AND COMMEND THOSE WHO DEVELOPED IT FOR THEIR FARSIGHTED STEWARDSHIP OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S FOREST RESOURCES.

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 the present and for future generations; and

Whereas, the American Tree Farm System began in the Pacific Northwest and by 1975 had spread to all fifty states. The American Tree Farm System celebrates its seventy‑fifth anniversary in 2016. The American Tree Farm 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 to care for our forests, foresters volunteering for the American Tree Farm System were encouraging the planting and nurturing of forests on private lands through a program of recognizing sustainable forest stewardship; and

Whereas, the American Tree Farm System and the South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program are shining examples of South Carolina’s early commitment to conservation by protecting forest resources while also providing forest products for South Carolinians and for all Americans; and

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

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize the seventy‑fifth anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, commend the American Tree Farm System and the South Carolina Certified Tree Program in the wise management of our forest resources, for advocating and following prudent forest practices, and join with all South Carolinians in applauding a farsighted system that has provided us with trees for today and in the future.

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