



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1360/2
CMH:wlj:wj

2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 24

April 8, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives KRUG, SPIROS, CZAJA, TITTL, MILROY, KREMER, MURPHY, KAHL, MURSAU, KNODL, BALLWEG, THIESFELDT, PETRYK, ROHRKASTE, CONSIDINE, KULP and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators TIFFANY, L. TAYLOR, COWLES, PETROWSKI, BEWLEY, LASSA and LASEE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April 2015 as Forestry and Paper Products Month.

2 Whereas, Wisconsin has nearly 17 million acres of public and private forests,
3 managed by the forest products industry, nonindustrial private landowners, and
4 county, state, and tribal agencies, which provide the essential raw material for the
5 state’s forest products and paper industry along with a myriad of benefits; and

6 Whereas, the forest products industry—composed of the logging, pulp and
7 paper, lumber and wood products, and printing industries—significantly contributes
8 to Wisconsin’s economic health and well-being by employing more than 54,000
9 women and men in family-supporting jobs whose annual income exceeds \$3.2
10 billion; and

11 Whereas, the forest products industry contributes an estimated \$226 million
12 in state and local taxes; and

13 Whereas, Wisconsin’s forest products industry accounts for 13.2 percent of
14 manufacturing jobs, is the number one employer in 23 counties, and every 10 forest

1 industry jobs support an additional 23 jobs in other sectors of the state’s economy;
2 and

3 Whereas, the products of Wisconsin’s pulp, paper, lumber, and wood
4 manufacturing industries shipments are worth more than \$17.8 billion annually,
5 including more than \$14.4 billion in pulp and paper products and more than \$3.3
6 billion in lumber and wood products; and

7 Whereas, Wisconsin’s papermakers employ more than 31,000 men and women,
8 earning more than \$2.4 billion in family-supporting salaries; Wisconsin’s 18,805
9 lumber and wood products employees earn more than \$781 million; the state’s 5,125
10 forestry and logging workers earn more than \$33.6 million; and the printing
11 industries of Wisconsin employ more than 28,700 employees earning more than
12 \$309.2 million; and

13 Whereas, papermaking began in 1848, three months before Wisconsin became
14 a state, and paper manufacturing has been a cornerstone of the state’s economy for
15 more than 165 years, and in fact Wisconsin has led the nation in paper
16 manufacturing for more than 60 years; and

17 Whereas, Wisconsin produces a greater diversity of paper products than any
18 other state in the four main categories of packaging, communication (printing and
19 writing), tissue, and specialty grades; and

20 Whereas, Wisconsin’s lumber and wood products industry predates the state,
21 leads the nation in millwork production, and is third nationally in hardwood veneer
22 output; and

23 Whereas, the industry’s products are societal staples that include lumber and
24 wood material for homes as well as other residential, commercial, industrial,
25 municipal, and agricultural buildings, plus essentials and amenities including

1 cabinets, furniture and fixtures, windows, pallets and shipping materials, posts and
2 poles, fuel wood, and biomass for energy and other purposes, as well as Christmas
3 trees; and

4 Whereas, Wisconsin's nearly 17 million acres of forest lands and its millions of
5 urban trees significantly enhance the quality of life in our great state, contribute to
6 water quality, support and enhance soil quality, provide habitat and sustenance for
7 terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and offer four-season recreational and
8 aesthetic opportunities to residents and visitors of all ages; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin forests are growing one and a half times more timber than
10 is being harvested each year, with saw timber volume increasing by 1.68 billion
11 board-feet annually; and

12 Whereas, the forest products industry in Wisconsin supports sustainable
13 forestry to maintain woodlands as healthy, complex ecosystems that provide
14 ecological, social, and economic benefits today and for future generations; and

15 Whereas, 7.2 million forested acres—including county, state, tribal, private
16 nonindustrial, and private industrial ownerships—are third-party certified as
17 "sustainably managed" regarding widely accepted forest practices and standards,
18 and most of this forest land (public and private) is open for hunting, hiking,
19 bird-watching, and other recreational activities; now, therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
21 Wisconsin legislature proclaim April 2015 as Forestry and Paper Products Month in
22 Wisconsin and commend this observance to all citizens; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature calls upon our citizens to learn more about the
24 important role the forest products industry plays in our economy and environment;
25 and, be it further

