Senate of Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, PA

In the Senate, June 3, 2015

Whereas, In October 1994, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced a landmark program for its membership, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); and

Whereas, The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) was formed in 1995 and began meeting monthly in State College; and

Whereas, It was quickly decided that the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association of Pennsylvania, which is now the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, would house and provide administrative support to the newly formed SIC; and

Whereas, The guidelines required that AF&PA members practice sustainable forestry on their own lands and educate loggers and nonindustrial landowners on sustainable forestry; and

Whereas, The development of the SFI program in this Commonwealth was challenging since the majority of private forestland in this Commonwealth is owned by more than 500,000 nonindustrial private forest landowners; and

Whereas, The early focus of the SIC was the establishment of a logger training program, educational outreach to landowners and the public and the development of a Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring system for measuring success; and

Whereas, More than 7,000 individuals have participated in the logger program over the last 20 years, with approximately 700 participants maintaining a current training status each year and some loggers having completed more than 100 hours of total training; and

Whereas, Over 26,000 landowner outreach packets have been distributed, and the information in the outreach packets is accessible to a wider audience through the SFI website; and

Whereas, The benefits of the training program were further recognized and bolstered when the Bureau of Forestry adopted a policy in 2007 that required all commercial timber harvesting activities on the Commonwealth's 2.2 million acres of forestland to be led by an SFI trained logger; and

Whereas, More recently, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has also recognized the benefits of the training program and encourages its loggers to also participate; and

Whereas, People of all ages and backgrounds from across the United States and Canada came together last month to break the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour by small teams; and

Whereas, Organized by the national SFI, more than 200,000 trees were planted simultaneously in 28 different communities; and

Whereas, Two groups of representatives from the forest products industry, the Bureau of Forestry and other groups were part of the Pennsylvania effort, which included 45 planters and 3,957 trees planted in the Moshannon State Forest and 56 planters and 3,366 trees planted in the Tuscarora State Forest; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate designate June 5, 2015, as "PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day" in Pennsylvania.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 144, introduced by Senators Scott E. Hutchinson, Stewart J. Greenleaf, Don White, Christine M. Tartaglione, Gene Yaw and Jay Costa, and adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the third day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand fifteen.

SEAL OF THE SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Attest:

Megan Consedine

Megan Tolino Consedine, Secretary

House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

In the House, June 8, 2015

Whereas, In October 1994, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced a landmark program for its membership, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI); and

Whereas, The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) was formed in 1995 and began meeting monthly in State College; and

Whereas, It was quickly decided that the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association of Pennsylvania, which is now the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, would house and provide administrative support to the newly formed SIC; and

Whereas, The guidelines required that AF&PA members practice sustainable forestry on their own lands and educate loggers and nonindustrial landowners on sustainable forestry; and

Whereas, Given that the majority of private forestland in this Commonwealth is owned by more than one-half million nonindustrial private forest landowners, it was a challenge to develop the SFI program; and

Whereas, The early focus of the SIC was the establishment of a logger training program, educational outreach to landowners and the public and the development of a Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring system for measuring success; and

Whereas, More than 7,000 individuals have participated in the logger program over the last 20 years, with approximately 700 participants maintaining a current training status each year and some loggers having completed more than 100 hours of total training; and

Whereas, Over 26,000 landowner outreach packets have been distributed, and the information in the outreach packets is accessible to a wider audience through the SFI website; and

Whereas, The benefits of the training program were further recognized and bolstered when the Bureau of Forestry adopted a policy in 2007 that required all commercial timber harvesting activities on the Commonwealth's 2.2 million acres of forestland to be led by an SFI trained logger; and

Whereas, More recently, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has also recognized the benefits of the training program and encourages its loggers to also participate; and

Whereas, People of all ages and backgrounds from across the United States and Canada came together last month to break the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour by small teams; and

Whereas, Organized by the national SFI, more than 200,000 trees were planted simultaneously in 28 different communities. Two groups of representatives from industry, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and other groups were part of the Pennsylvania effort, which included 45 planters and 3,957 trees planted in the Moshannon State Forest and 56 planters and 3,366 trees planted in the Tuscarora State Forest; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives designate June 5, 2015, as "PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day" in Pennsylvania.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 375, introduced by Rapp, Causer, Dush, Gabler, Sankey, Sonney, Baker, Millard, Readshaw, Digirolamo, Kirkland, Cohen, Vereb, Farina, Harhart, Boback, A. Harris, Rozzi, Wheeland, Hennessey, Murt, Irvin, Grove, Thomas, Gibbons, Everett, Jozwiak, Youngblood, Zimmerman, Watson, Donatucci and O'neill.

SEAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mike Turzai

Mike Turzai, Speaker