



## 2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 18

February 10, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives FRISKE, AINSWORTH, SERATTI, OTT, LOEFFELHOLZ, M. WILLIAMS, BIES, GUNDERSON, J. WOOD, FREESE, HINES, MONTGOMERY, WIECKERT, HUNDERTMARK, M. LEHMAN, HAHN, OWENS, TOWNSEND, LOTHIAN, GIELOW, GRONEMUS and J. LEHMAN, cosponsored by Senators WELCH, BRESKE, COWLES and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Forestry.

1     **Relating to:** supporting the use of sound, scientific, and sustainable forest  
2             management harvest techniques in order to preserve and maximize the use and  
3             enjoyment of Wisconsin's forests.

4             Whereas, Wisconsin's 16 million acres of forests cover 46% of Wisconsin's total  
5     land area; and

6             Whereas, private nonindustrial landowners own 57% of Wisconsin's forests;  
7     and

8             Whereas, 68% of the wood fiber used in Wisconsin's forest products industry  
9     comes from private nonindustrial forests; and

10            Whereas, Wisconsin's forest products industry owns 1.1 million acres (7%) of  
11     Wisconsin's forest land that is open to the public for public hunting, fishing, and  
12     recreation; and

13            Whereas, the public benefits related to improved water and air quality, wildlife  
14     habitat, and recreation are far greater than the corporate benefits provided on  
15     industrial forest lands; and

1           Whereas, in addition to the recreational values, industrial forest lands provide  
2 unique ecological values found only in large blocks of forests in an unfragmented  
3 landscape; and

4           Whereas, Wisconsin’s forest products industry is the second largest industry  
5 sector in the state with annual shipments valued at nearly \$20 billion; and

6           Whereas, Wisconsin’s forest products industry accounts for nearly 18% of the  
7 state’s economic output; and

8           Whereas, Wisconsin’s forest products industry directly employs over 100,000  
9 people with good-paying jobs that support families, while another 200,000 jobs are  
10 created in support of this employment sector; and

11           Whereas, the Wisconsin forest products industry, through the American Forest  
12 and Paper Association, has developed a program to advance our timberland  
13 resources. This program is called the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. It promotes,  
14 educates, and monitors adherence to safeguard the state’s resources for future  
15 generations. In order to be effective, this initiative needs the cooperation and support  
16 of all entities with responsibilities for management or ownership of woodlands in  
17 Wisconsin. This self-regulatory program offers an opportunity to strengthen our  
18 state; and

19           Whereas, the Forest Stewardship Council is a nonprofit organization that  
20 supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable  
21 management of the world’s forests; and

22           Whereas, Wisconsin’s way of life is dependent on the long-term sustainable  
23 health and use and simultaneous regeneration of its forests; now, therefore, be it

24           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
25 legislature expresses its support for the use of sound, scientific, and sustainable

1 forest management harvest techniques in order to preserve and maximize the use  
2 and enjoyment of Wisconsin's forests, and for the attention and efforts of the  
3 Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council and other  
4 creditable sustainable forestry certification systems.

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**(END)**