

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 523

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Forestry Association is sponsoring a seedling giveaway on March 25, 2009, in an effort to promote public awareness of forestry and the importance of the state's timber resources; and

**WHEREAS**, The forest industry and family forest owners plant 100 million seedlings annually in order to maintain sustainable forests for future generations of Texans; and

**WHEREAS**, Covering 12 million acres, the forest section in East Texas generates more than 173,000 jobs, \$7.6 billion in annual labor income, and a total economic impact of more than \$30.6 billion, making timber a valuable agricultural commodity to this state; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1914 by a group of dedicated conservationists, the Texas Forestry Association is a nonprofit organization of landowners, businesses, and other professionals united by a common goal to advance forestry, promote conservation practices, and enhance and perpetuate the state's forest resources; the association offers programs such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Tree Farm, which sponsors the annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year contest; winners of the 2007 award, John and Walta Cooke from Panola County, qualified as Southern Region finalists in the National Outstanding Tree Farmer competition; and

**WHEREAS**, The Texas Forestry Association has tirelessly striven to ensure that abundant forests remain a dependable resource for the citizens of Texas, and under the current and able leadership of President Randall Schiefer, the Texas Forestry Association will undoubtedly continue to contribute to the economic vitality and beauty of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby recognize the Texas Forestry Association on the occasion of its seedling giveaway and commend the 3,000 members of the association for their exemplary reforestation efforts and advocacy; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Texas Forestry Association as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Nichols

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 25, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate