

Senator Casperson offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 89.**

A resolution proclaiming October 16-22, 2011, as Michigan Forest Products Week.

Whereas, Michigan has 19.3 million acres of forestland that contributes to our state's beauty and incredible natural wealth. The forests are homes to wildlife and offer many economic opportunities for our state. During National Forest Products Week, we recognize the many benefits of our forests; and

Whereas, Our state's forests provide us with clean water and air, wood, wildlife, recreation, and beauty. Forest products can be seen in myriad places in our daily lives, from the houses we live in to the paper we write on. National Forest Products Week draws attention to these invaluable resources and to the importance of ensuring our forests remain flourishing ecosystems that will provide indispensable benefits for current and future generations; and

Whereas, The public has a justifiable and legitimate interest in the future vitality of Michigan's forest-based economy. Michigan's forest industry contributes annually over \$2.5 billion to the state's economy and employs nearly 150,000 people; and

Whereas, Across our state, many communities rely on healthy forests for economic stability. Our forests provide paper products, building materials, chemicals, and many other items needed by families and small businesses. Responsible forest management helps provide jobs and maintain these important resources to help meet the daily needs of Michiganders and people around the world; and

Whereas, Every forested acre represents an opportunity to protect habitats and communities; to explore nature; to provide clean air and water; and to produce raw materials like timber, fiber, and biomass; and

Whereas, Sustainable forest management requires strong cooperation among private citizens, government agencies, and the forestry industry. More than 60 percent of our state's forestlands belong to private landowners. The federal and state governments own 40 percent; and

Whereas, Working in partnership, government, industry, and private citizens are making progress in the vital task of preserving the health of Michigan's forests and woodlands while providing essential products to the American people. All three groups must work together to ensure the sustainable development of our forests and woodlands; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby recognize the week of October 16-22, 2011, as Michigan Forest Products Week, and we urge all citizens to recognize this observance; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Forest Products Council.