

1 *House* JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *78*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *State Administration Committee*
 3
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE
 6 FEDERAL TIMBER AGENCIES TO INCREASE THE TIMBER SALES ON
 7 OVER-MATURE STANDS OF TIMBER WITHIN THE STATE OF MONTANA,
 8 THEREBY IMPROVING THE TIMBER GROWING POTENTIAL ON SUCH
 9 STANDS, AND REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO
 10 HOLD FIELD HEARINGS ON WILDERNESS PROPOSALS.

11
 12 WHEREAS, the timber sales in the Northern Region have
 13 been decreasing since 1970 and have reached a level which is
 14 approximately one-half of the annual allowable cut; and

15 WHEREAS, the number of United States housing starts is
 16 projected to increase from 1.6 million in 1976 to a level of
 17 1.8 to 1.9 million in 1977; and

18 WHEREAS, there are 5,800,000 acres of sawtimber in
 19 Montana which is over-mature and is not being managed
 20 properly; and

21 WHEREAS, in order to meet the future demands for fiber,
 22 the harvest of over-mature, decadent stands must be
 23 accelerated so that they may be returned to a vigorous
 24 condition where growth exceeds mortality; and

25 WHEREAS, proposed federal wilderness legislation can

1 have a serious and detrimental effect on the state's
 2 economy; and

3 WHEREAS, the commercial forest land base is being
 4 reduced because of proposed federal land withdrawal
 5 legislation; and

6 WHEREAS, the stability of the forest products industry
 7 and the economy of many communities which are dependent upon
 8 the forest products industry are directly related to the
 9 volume of timber harvest and the future well-being and
 10 prosperity of Montana depends on sound and proper management
 11 of its renewable resources.

12
 13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 14 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15 That the Montana Legislature requests all federal
 16 timber sales agencies and Congress to explore all means to
 17 increase the harvest of over-mature timber to reduce the
 18 difference between the volume sold and the annual allowable
 19 cut, thereby preserving the stability of the forest products
 20 industry and the economy of several communities in Western
 21 Montana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that field hearings be held in
 23 Montana on all pending land withdrawal legislation.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution
 25 be sent to the Montana Congressional Delegation and to the

LC 1722/01

1 United States Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

-End-

Approved by Committee
on State Administration

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