

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8
INTRODUCED BY G. HENDRICK

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FOREST SERVICE TO REQUIRE BONDS WHEN TIMBER SALES ARE CHALLENGED.

WHEREAS, timber-related industries remain a significant part of the Montana economy, employing more than 11,000 people, and logging traditions are woven into the fabric of many of the state's communities; and

WHEREAS, the estimated timber harvest in Montana has declined markedly in the last 20 years primarily because of a 70% decline in harvest from national forests; and

WHEREAS, although public involvement in the sale of national forest timber is necessary, some individuals and groups manipulate the legal system by filing appeals that are without merit for the sole purpose of delaying timber sales indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, a U.S. District Court Judge in Montana recently required environmental groups to post a bond to cover the potential costs of delaying a Forest Service timber sale; and

WHEREAS, Montana law requires that a bond be posted if a legal challenge is posed to a timber sale on state land.

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

(1) That the Forest Service be strongly urged to require that a bond be posted whenever there is a legal challenge to a timber sale.

(2) That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Montana Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and the chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

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