

HJR0209

00514816

Filed for intro on 04/09/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 209  
By McKee

A RESOLUTION Relative to federal cost share assistance to mitigate damage caused by the Southern Pine Beetle.

WHEREAS, The State of Tennessee contains 14.4 million acres of timberland, of which 1.6 million acres is in pine forest types; and

WHEREAS, The forest products industry in the State contributes \$17.1 billion to the State's economy and employs 166,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Income from the sale of pine saw timber and pine pulpwood from private forestlands totals \$72.3 million annually; and

WHEREAS, In addition to timber, healthy forests provide wildlife habitat, natural beauty, noise abatement, privacy, clean water, cleaner air and opportunities for recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Pine Beetle is significantly impacting the pine forests of Tennessee, with 44 counties currently at epidemic levels; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the lands affected are not suitable for agricultural crops, improved pasture or hardwood timber production; and

WHEREAS, If the affected lands were replanted to pine forest, it would provide a favorable return on investment to the landowner, contribute to the economy through manufacturing and processing, and provide valuable non-timber benefits to the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, Reforestation cost-share incentives to private non-industrial landowners substantially increase reforestation by offsetting the large initial costs of site preparation and tree planting; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly urges the Governor and the Tennessee Congressional delegation to seek an emergency appropriation of federal funds for cost share assistance to private non-industrial forest landowners for reforestation measures to mitigate damage caused by the current Southern Pine Beetle epidemic in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.