

HOUSE RESOLUTION 128

By Hulsey

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Domtar on its 100th anniversary of operation in Kingsport.

WHEREAS, this legislative body takes great pride in recognizing those outstanding businesses that have made noteworthy contributions to the history of their communities as they celebrate special milestones; and

WHEREAS, one such exceptional business is Domtar, whose mill located in Kingsport manufactures paper products and has been a significant part of the economic, social, and cultural heritage of the City of Kingsport for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport Pulp Company was founded in Kingsport in 1916, when local businessmen constructed a pulp mill to process fiber from a wood alcohol extract operation prior to the re-chartering of the City of Kingsport in 1917; and

WHEREAS, Kingsport Pulp Company was sold in the early 1920s to George Mead, who, in 1927, integrated assets from the mill with holdings in Ohio to form the Mead Corporation; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Kingsport mill operated five paper machines, one of which was considered to be the fastest in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Kingsport mill was acquired by Willamette Industries, which upgraded the operation in 2000 to make it more environmentally friendly and energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport mill was acquired by Weyerhaeuser in 2002; and

WHEREAS, that same year, the Kingsport mill was rebuilt as the newest and most modern paper facility in North America with the installation of a \$475 million uncoated, free-sheet machine, recovery boiler, and bleached hardwood pulp line; and

WHEREAS, at the time, the rebuild was the largest single capital investment ever made in the history of the State of Tennessee, and was considered a risky gamble by the paper industry because it incorporated a soda pulping process in lieu of the sulfur process that had been the industry standard for fifty years; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Kingsport mill was presented an award from the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry for "Outstanding Achievement in Air Quality"; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Kingsport mill received an award from the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry for "outstanding achievement in Environmental Information Systems to monitor mill data for environmental compliance and to increase environmental awareness for improvements to the environment"; and

WHEREAS, Domtar took over the Weyerhaeuser Fine Paper group in 2007, giving the Kingsport mill its fourth owner in twelve years; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Domtar became a charter partner with the Kingsport-based Regional Center for Advanced Manufacturing (RCAM) and developed maintenance and operator apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the mill became the first integrated paper mill in fifteen years to receive the prestigious Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for its voluntary solid waste reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation commended Domtar's Kingsport site in 2014 for its "laudable" environmental performance; and

WHEREAS, the Kingsport mill has the capacity to produce nearly 420,000 tons of paper and more than 300,000 tons of pulp annually; and

WHEREAS, the mill is also a co-generator of electricity and can produce up to fifty megawatts from renewable biomass fuels; and

WHEREAS, Domtar's Kingsport mill is the city's third-largest manufacturing company, generating direct employment for 390 workers at the mill and the Ridgefields converting facility,

and creating 750 indirect jobs and an estimated regional economic impact of \$190 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Domtar's Kingsport mill employees support more than forty community organizations through the donation of funds or volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, sports events at Domtar Park in Kingsport have generated an estimated \$6 million economic impact, and the mill has contributed more than \$5 million to the Kingsport community in the form of land, money, and labor for numerous recreational and social efforts; and

WHEREAS, Domtar's vision is for the Kingsport mill to be the premier facility in North America in terms of safety and environmental practices, quality, low cost, efficiency, and technology; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the owners and employees of Domtar's Kingsport mill for their dedication to furthering the paper industry in the State of Tennessee and throughout the region, the nation, and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend the owners and employees of Domtar upon their celebration of the Kingsport mill's 100th anniversary, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.