

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 800

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to celebrate "Tennessee Tree Day," March 21, 2020.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the most biologically diverse inland state in these United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a state of robust forest cover; and

WHEREAS, forests, trees, and forest cover provide a myriad of benefits to Tennessee's economy, community, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, ongoing human development is responsible for the loss of trees and forest cover every year; and

WHEREAS, there is no statewide coordinated and concerted effort to replace these trees or the forest cover they provide; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Environmental Council has been organizing large-scale, statewide tree-planting events that have grown from 5,000 trees in 2007 in a few Tennessee counties to nearly 200,000 trees planted in 2018 and another 97,000 trees planted in March 2019 in all ninety-five counties, involving more than 25,000 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, over 60,000 Tennesseans have participated in these events since 2007, and the public demand for trees is perpetual; and

WHEREAS, partnerships and cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Forestry, the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, local stormwater agencies, public works departments, and hundreds of other local community organizations and agencies are integral to success; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Council is aiming to plant an additional 250,000 seedlings on March 21, 2020, making this the largest Tennessee Tree Day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the Tennessee Environmental Council as it celebrates March 21, 2020, as "Tennessee Tree Day," with special tree planting events in communities across the Volunteer State through offerings of tree seedlings, educational information, and coordination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.