

1995 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 472

Offered January 18, 1995

Encouraging the Department of Forestry to continue its efforts in developing alternative uses of vegetable oils as hydraulic fluids and lubricants.

Patrons—Plum, Barlow, Davies, Giesen, Mayer, Thomas and Van Yahres; Senators: Benedetti, Calhoun and Quayle

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, over the last 18 months the Department of Forestry has conducted a pilot program to assess the utility of various vegetable oils as hydraulic fluids and lubricants; and

WHEREAS, the Department has experimented with replacing petroleum-based hydraulic fluid and lubricants with vegetable oil in its logging equipment, chain saws and bulldozers; and

WHEREAS, the John Deere company has been a corporate partner in this project, supplying the Department with necessary quantities of rapeseed oil; and

WHEREAS, when equipment is used in the woods to inspect logging operations or to fight fires, hoses are frequently damaged, resulting in the release of potentially harmful petroleum-based hydraulic fluid; and

WHEREAS, vegetable oil is biodegradable and therefore represents less of a threat to the environment; and

WHEREAS, results from this cooperative venture indicate that vegetable oil is an effective lubricant and hydraulic fluid that can perform in a reliable manner in all weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, this pilot project is a reflection of the agency's commitment to seeking a balance between economic development and environmental protection; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly encourages the Department of Forestry to continue its effort to promote the use of vegetable oils in the maintenance and operation of agency equipment; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the State Forester, in order that he may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

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