

STATE OF FLORIDA

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Florida's forests and forest-related industries are vital for today's living and tomorrow's needs and cover 17.3 million acres which represent nearly half of Florida's total land area; and

WHEREAS, Florida's working forests help protect valuable natural areas from the threat of conversion to other uses such as residential and commercial development, and provide numerous environmental and ecosystem benefits such as improved air quality and improved wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the presence of healthy sustainable forests is vital for the protection and conservation of Florida's water resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida's working forests provide societal benefits such as plentiful spaces for beauty and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Florida's working forests are carefully and professionally managed to provide timber products while sustaining and protecting renewable forest resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Florida's working forests generate \$14.5 billion in economic activity annually, provide jobs for more than 74,500 Floridians and provide material for more than 5,000 types of consumer goods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida do hereby designate the week of October 18 through 24, 2015, as

WORKING FORESTS WEEK

in the State of Florida and congratulate forest owners and forestry practitioners who grow, harvest and replant healthy trees in order to protect and maintain Florida's working forests for present and future generations.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida have hereunto subscribed their names and have caused the Office Seal of the State of Florida to be hereunto affixed in the City of Tallahassee on this 6th day of October, 2015.