A Bill

SENATE BILL

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For An Act To Be Entitled

8   "AN ACT TO CREATE A REFORESTATION PROGRAM IN ARKANSAS TO

9   BE KNOWN AS PLANT THE FUTURE; TO ESTABLISH A REFORESTATION

10   GOAL OF 10 MILLION ADDITIONAL TREES EACH YEAR UNTIL THE

11   YEAR 2000; TO CREATE A STATE REFORESTATION TASK FORCE; TO

12   ESTABLISH A REFORESTATION COMMITTEE IN EACH COUNTY OF THE

13   STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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17   Whereas, the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas determines that

18 Arkansas' forests are nationally and internationally significant; and

19   Whereas, Arkansas' forests provide habitat for thousands of animal and

20 plant species many of which are rare or found only within the boundaries of

21 the state; and

22   Whereas, the bottomland hardwood forests of the state are critical to

23 the survival of waterfowl populations; and

24   Whereas, Arkansas forests are of great economic value and have a gross

25 product of $1.6 billion annually and provide employment for nearly 40,000

26 Arkansans in the forest products industry earning up to $758 million each

27 year; and

28   Whereas, destruction of the earth's forests will lead to the extinction

29 of millions of species; and

30   Whereas, a dramatic increase in atmospheric gases, particularly carbon

31 dioxide, may raise global temperature 2 degrees to 10 degrees F in the next

32 century; and

33   Whereas, trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, provide

34 habitat for species, purify air by removing dust and other particles, produce

35 oxygen, prevent erosion, reduce flooding, reduce energy use, provide food and

1 shade, create beauty and hide unsightly areas created by man, and literally

2 keep life going on our planet.

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4   SECTION 1. This act may be cited and referred to as the "Arkansas

5 Reforestation Act of 1991."

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7   SECTION 2. The Arkansas Reforestation Program is to be known

8 hereinafter as PLANT THE FUTURE.

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10   SECTION 3. It is the purpose of the State of Arkansas to establish a

11 "no net loss policy" of forest land in the state; to reforest to the maximum

12 extent possible the state's bottomland hardwood forests; and to direct state

13 agencies and to encourage private and federal agencies to work together to

14 carry forth the goals of this legislation.

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16   SECTION 4. The program goals of PLANT THE FUTURE are:

17   (1) To plant 10 million trees in each of the next ten (10) years. The

18 10 million figure is Arkansas' portion of offsetting the loss of 20 million

19 acres of trees each year in the Amazon Basin and is in addition to the more

20 than 75 million trees planted annually in the state;

21   (2) To increase the amount of forested land in Arkansas from the

22 current 17 million acres to more than 18 million acres by the year 2000;

23   (3) To establish bottomland hardwood demonstration forests in the Delta

24 to aid in educating landowners in the proper ways to regenerate and manage

25 hardwood forest and to restore bottomland and wetland forests;

26   (4) To reforest lands taken out of agricultural production;

27   (5) To reforest corridors along lakes and streams;

28   (6) To develop forests in communities;

29   (7) To reforest borders of highways (greenways) between communities;

30   (8) To establish forested windbreaks and borders along cleared lands;

31   (9) To enhance and promote the state's forest economy.

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33   SECTION 5. The Arkansas Forestry Commission shall have the following

34 duties in addition to those otherwise prescribed by law:

35   (1) To develop a comprehensive reforestation program and to carry out

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1 the program goals of PLANT THE FUTURE;

2   (2) To implement the no net loss policy of forest land;

3   (3) To establish a state reforestation task force to include

4 representation of appropriate state, federal, and private agencies and to

5 serve as the chair agency of the task force for coordination purposes;

6   (4) To assist the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to organize

7 and support county reforestation committees;

8   (5) To provide technical information and support for tree planting

9 projects within the county;

10   (6) To prepare an annual report for each of the ten (10) years of PLANT

11 THE FUTURE for the Governor and members of the General Assembly;

12   (7) To promulgate procedures, rules, guidelines, or regulations

13 necessary for the administration and operation of PLANT THE FUTURE.

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15   SECTION 6. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service shall have the

16 following duties in addition to those otherwise prescribed by law:

17   (1) To establish a reforestation committee in each county of the state

18 and to work with the Arkansas Forestry Commission to organize and support the

19 county reforestation committees;

20   (2) To provide technical information and support for tree planting

21 projects within each county;

22   (3) To work through Cooperative Extension Service organizations and

23 clientele groups to foster tree planting activities within each county of the

24 state;

25   (4) To assist the Arkansas Forestry Commission in the preparation of an

26 annual report to the Governor and members of the General Assembly.

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28   SECTION 7. CODE. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent

29 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas

30 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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32   SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Act or the

33 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such

34 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Act which

35 can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this

1 end the provisions of this Act are declared to be severable.

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3　　　SECTION 9.　GENERAL REPEALER.　All laws and parts of laws in conflict

4 with this Act are hereby repealed.

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