

1       A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Department of Revenue and the University  
2 of Kentucky's Forestry and Natural Resources Department to recommend equitable  
3 property tax assessment procedures for well-managed forests.

4       WHEREAS, well-managed, family-owned, non-industrial forests are central to  
5 providing the raw material that fuels the \$13 billion in economic contributions from the  
6 forest industry sector annually; and

7       WHEREAS, incentivizing family forest owners, who own the majority of the  
8 forestlands in Kentucky, to conduct sound forest practices will help sustain the socio-  
9 economic benefits that forest resources provide to Kentucky; and

10      WHEREAS, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 13 of the 2002 Regular  
11 Session of the General Assembly, the Legislative Research Commission issued Research  
12 Report No. 307, which identified tax and related policies that had the effect of  
13 incentivizing or disincentivizing good forest management practices in the  
14 Commonwealth; and

15      WHEREAS, the examination of property tax issues impacting forest management  
16 practices in Research Report No. 307 produced conflicting views on how to equitably and  
17 constitutionally assess property taxes on well-managed forestlands; and

18      WHEREAS, this lack of agreement and failure to act upon the report's most  
19 important findings resulted in continued poor forest management of many forestlands in  
20 the Commonwealth and the potential unconstitutional taxation of forestlands where sound  
21 forest management practices were being implemented; and

22      WHEREAS, significant developments have occurred since the issuance of Research  
23 Report No. 307 that would be helpful in finding the best policies for improving the  
24 productivity of Kentucky's forests, including the availability of a nationally-recognized  
25 standard that could be used by property valuation administrators to define well-managed  
26 forests;

27      NOW, THEREFORE,

1     *Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

2              ➔Section 1. The Department of Revenue and the University of Kentucky's  
3     Forestry and Natural Resources Department shall coordinate together to submit a report to  
4     the Legislative Research Commission no later than December 1, 2021, detailing their  
5     recommendations for establishing property tax assessment procedures for well-managed  
6     forests that ensure equitable taxation of these lands and encourage sound forest  
7     management practices that will promote the sustainability of Kentucky's forests and  
8     maximize the socio-economic benefits derived from them.