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STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R12-0962.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SR12-003

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Schwartz and Nicholson,

Senate Committees

SENATE RESOLUTION 12-003

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO CREATE COLORADO JOBS BY
102 ENCOURAGING ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR HEALTHY
103 FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND THE USE OF COLORADO FOREST
104 BIOMASS AS A SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY.

1 WHEREAS, The state of Colorado is experiencing one of the most
2 significant droughts in recent history; and

3 WHEREAS, Current data shows that 98 percent of Colorado has
4 been designated in drought condition; and

5 WHEREAS, Forest health and protection of our watersheds is
6 critical to water quality and availability; and

7 WHEREAS, Colorado has one of the most at-risk forest
8 ecosystems in the western United States due to 4,000,000 acres of dead
9 timber and comparatively limited forest management efforts on federal,
10 state, and private lands; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 2,000,000 people and nearly 900
12 communities are located in areas of the 10 counties along the Front Range

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 that are at risk of wildfires; and

2 WHEREAS, The forests of the Front Range furnish drinking water
3 to more than two-thirds of the state's population; and

4 WHEREAS, Of the 4,200,000 acres of the Front Range watershed
5 that are part of the drinking water supply, 65 percent are at high risk of
6 post-fire erosion; and

7 WHEREAS, To the extent that Colorado's ecosystem and economy
8 operate on interrelated large and small scales to function effectively, state
9 action is needed to implement large-scale solutions; and

10 WHEREAS, As stated at the Front Range roundtable in August
11 2011: "Wildfire and insect epidemics don't recognize political or
12 ownership boundaries. Restoration must occur at a scale large enough to
13 influence the behavior of these forces across the landscape."; and

14 WHEREAS, The coordination of efforts to create landscape-level
15 solutions to restore Colorado forest ecosystems, primarily, and
16 secondarily, to promote the use of clean energy generated from biomass
17 will improve the efficiency of efforts to reach both of these goals and, in
18 the process, can serve to stimulate economic development in rural
19 Colorado; and

20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 11-267, enacted in 2011, created a
21 working group convened by the Colorado State Forest Service that made
22 recommendations with regard to managing for a forest energy industry,
23 compiling and disseminating information, and developing policy to
24 execute and improve forest management tools; now, therefore,

25 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-eighth General Assembly*
26 *of the State of Colorado:*

27 That we, the members of the Colorado Senate, request:

28 (1) That Colorado's state forester respond to the crisis with forest
29 management contracts that implement the priorities identified by
30 Colorado's place-based, local forest collaboratives in order to bring
31 greater value to wood resources from critical areas, including the
32 wildland-urban interface and watersheds, by utilizing Colorado's
33 emerging biomass energy industry and by creating timber industry jobs

1 in forest restoration for rural communities and under-utilized workforce
2 populations such as veterans and the youth corps;

3 (2) That the Colorado State Forest Service:

4 (a) Work with the United States Forest Service on forest
5 stewardship agreements and facilitate contracts authorized by the United
6 States Department of Agriculture;

7 (b) Work with the United States Forest Service and the United
8 States Bureau of Land Management on projects authorized under the
9 good neighbor authority, as defined in section 23-31-313 (3), Colorado
10 Revised Statutes, and facilitate forest products sales contracts;

11 (c) Identify areas and prioritize contracts for forest management
12 on public and private lands in priority landscapes identified by local forest
13 collaboratives and specified in the Colorado statewide forest resource
14 assessment and strategy, initiated in response to a mandate from the
15 United States Forest Service pursuant to Pub.L. 110-234, with emphasis
16 on water supplies and areas in the wildland-urban interface;

17 (d) Value forest products on state lands using lowest market value
18 and encourage the removal of wood material with the primary harvest in
19 accordance with forest management protocols promoting healthy forest
20 ecosystems and without creating a disincentive for using prescribed fires;

21 (e) Continue to actively manage forest stewardship plans for all
22 state-owned lands, including plans for long-term, reliable feedstock
23 sources for woody biomass and wood products;

24 (f) Foster local, place-based forest collaborative efforts that
25 include the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land
26 Management and identify consensus priority treatment areas from which
27 a reliable, statewide woody biomass supply estimate for the next ten years
28 may be developed;

29 (g) Work with Colorado's water community, including the basin
30 roundtables created in section 37-75-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, to
31 identify significant areas of priority landscapes that pose post-fire soil
32 hazard risk to water supplies in the watershed for preventative restoration
33 and fuel mitigation;

1 (h) Explore and identify potential funding sources for forest
2 management and energy projects in Colorado, including state and federal
3 tax incentives, cost-share and grant programs, and financing tools such as
4 loans, bonds, and contracts; and

5 (i) Identify and map areas of high risk of wildfire, high risk of
6 post-fire soil erosion in water supply areas, and adverse economic impacts
7 as a result of wildfire or post-fire soil erosion and provide the geographic
8 designations identified and mapped to the enterprise zone review task
9 force, formed pursuant to House Bill 12-1241, enacted in 2012, and the
10 Colorado Economic Development Commission;

11 (3) That the enterprise zone review task force review the
12 geographic designations of high risk areas provided by the Colorado State
13 Forest Service and the applicability of future enterprise zones to
14 associated wood product and energy generation industries;

15 (4) That the Colorado Economic Development Commission and
16 the Colorado Department of Agriculture promote forest industries and
17 products derived from Colorado forests;

18 (5) That the air quality control commission in the Colorado
19 Department of Public Health and Environment, within existing resources,
20 analyze a range of residential, commercial, and industrial equipment for
21 air emissions standards, identify equipment that meets the emissions
22 standards, publicly post a statement of the parameters for equipment
23 fueled by woody biomass that is smaller than one million British thermal
24 units, as defined in section 8-20-201 (1.3), Colorado Revised Statutes, per
25 hour, and include a list of woody biomass equipment that meets the
26 emissions standards; and

27 (6) That the Governor's Energy Office, or its successor office:

28 (a) With the engagement of stakeholders, evaluate the landscape
29 of renewable thermal heating and cooling technologies and renewable
30 cogeneration technologies in Colorado, identify potential renewable
31 thermal and cogeneration incentives nationally and internationally that
32 could serve as models for Colorado, and identify and assess financial
33 incentives available for renewable thermal and cogeneration technologies
34 for both residential and commercial uses; and

35 (b) Report to the House of Representatives Committee on

1 Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee
2 on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy, or their successor
3 committees, by January 1, 2013.

4 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be sent to
5 the Governor's Energy Office, or its successor office, the Colorado Office
6 of Economic Development, the Colorado Economic Development
7 Commission, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Department of
8 Agriculture, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment,
9 Governor John Hickenlooper, United States Senator Michael Bennet,
10 United States Senator Mark Udall, and United States Representatives
11 Diana DeGette, Jared Polis, Scott Tipton, Cory Gardner, Doug Lamborn,
12 Mike Coffman, and Ed Perlmutter.