The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington's forests are an essential part of the state's history, culture, economy and environment, covering 23 million acres across Washington; and

WHEREAS, forests purify the air we breathe and provide clean water to our communities by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, forests and forest products help reduce the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and provide countless other benefits, including clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, scenic beauty, local renewable energy, and wood, an energy efficient green building material; and

WHEREAS, forest products play a critical role in combating climate change due to the natural process of photosynthesis where trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, release oxygen into the atmosphere and capture carbon, which is stored in wood products for the life of the product; and

WHEREAS, the production of wood, paper and energy products from the forest supports more than 42,000 direct jobs and another 64,000 forestry-related jobs, paying wages of nearly $ 5.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, products from the forest are renewable, recyclable, biodegradable and sustainable, an essential part of our green economy, when harvested from responsibly managed forests; and

WHEREAS, in the face of increased threats to our forests – including diseases and insects, droughts, wildfires – we need to increase the resilience and health of our state's forests and preserve their key role in mitigating climate change; and

WHEREAS, Washington Forest Products Industry Week is designated to recognize the importance of products from our forests, and the intrinsic value of our forested land to the people of the state of Washington and to our heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2017 to be

Washington Forest Products Industry Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 20th day of October, 2017

Governor Jay Inslee