

HB 1684 -- WOOD ENERGY TAX CREDIT

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill reauthorizes the provisions regarding the tax credit for a Missouri wood energy producer until June 30, 2020, and limits the total amount of all tax credits in any fiscal year to \$3 million.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is economically and environmentally beneficial to the state. Currently, over 50% of the charcoal in the United States is produced in Missouri. Without this tax credit, many charcoal companies may be forced to relocate. The tax credit has helped fund the cleanup of scrap and saw dust piles from saw mills and turn the waste into a usable product.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; Brian Brookshire, Missouri Forest Products Association; Kevin Christensen, Frontier Charcoal, Flotron and McIntosh, LLC; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.