

HCB 2 -- DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION TIMBER SALES

SPONSOR: Pietzman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "to Introduce" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 11 to 6. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill requires the Department of Conservation to remit 75% of the proceeds from any sale of timber from land owned or managed by the Missouri Conservation Commission to the school district in which the land is located.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that much of the public land in this state is located in the poorest counties in the state. Public schools are largely funded through property taxes, which public entities do not pay. This bill would help fund the public schools in the areas where there is a lot of public forest land.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pietzman.

Additional written testimony was submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the proceeds of Department timber sales are used for educational and other programs to help the timber industry, which is an over \$10 billion industry in the state. Investing in the timber industry for these programs has a large return on investment for the region.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Forest Products Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill spoke about the programs funded by the proceeds of Department's timber sales and the process by which the Department contracts and works with loggers to manage its timber.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Conservation.