A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 211, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO EXCHANGE SIXTEENTH SECTION SCHOOL LAND OR LIEU LAND CLASSIFIED AS "FOREST LAND" FOR OTHER LAND OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE, WHEN IN THE OPINION OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION THE SALE AND EXCHANGE WILL PRODUCE MORE INCOME FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the state:

Amend Section 211, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read as follows:

Section 211. (1) The Legislature shall enact such laws as may be necessary to ascertain the true condition of the title to the sixteenth section lands in this state, or lands granted in lieu thereof, in the Choctaw Purchase, and shall provide that the sixteenth section lands reserved for the support of township schools, except as hereinafter provided, shall not be sold nor shall they be leased for a longer term than ten (10) years for lands situated outside municipalities and for lands situated within municipalities for a longer term than ninety-nine (99) years, for a gross sum; provided further, that existing leases of the sixteenth section lands situated in the municipalities of the state may, for a gross sum, be extended for a term of years not exceeding ninety-nine (99) years from the date of such extension, but the Legislature may provide for the lease of sixteenth section lands for a term of years not exceeding twenty-five (25) years for forest and agricultural lands and not exceeding forty (40) years.
for all other classifications of such lands for a ground rental, 
payable annually, and in the case of uncleared lands may lease 
them for such short terms as may be deemed proper in consideration 
of the improvement thereof, with right thereafter to lease for a 
term or to hold on payment of ground rent; provided, however, that 
land granted in lieu of sixteenth section lands in this state and 
situated outside of the county holding or owning same may be sold 
and the proceeds from such sale may be invested in a manner to be 
 prescribed by the Legislature; but provided further, however, that 
the Legislature, for industrial development thereon, may authorize 
the sale, in whole or in part for a gross sum or otherwise, of 
sixteenth section lands, or lands granted in lieu thereof situated 
within the county; and the Legislature may authorize the sale of 
sixteenth sections or lands granted in lieu thereof classified as 
"forest land" and the purchase of other lands within the county or 
extant thereto of equal or greater value, when the State 
Forestry Commission determines that such sale and exchange will 
 produce more income for the school district; and the Legislature 
shall either provide for the purchase of other lands within the 
county to be held for the benefit of the township schools in lieu 
of the lands sold or shall provide for the investment of the 
proceeds of such sale for the benefit of the township schools, or 
the Legislature may provide for both purchase of other lands to be 
so held and investment of proceeds for the benefit of the township 
schools; and the Legislature, for industrial development thereon, 
may authorize the granting of leases on sixteenth section lands, 
or lands granted in lieu thereof, in whole or in part, for a gross 
sum or otherwise, for terms not to exceed ninety-nine (99) years, 
and the Legislature shall provide for the investment of the 
proceeds of such leases for the benefit of the township schools. 
The Legislature may authorize the lease of not more than three (3) 
acres of sixteenth section lands or lands granted in lieu thereof 
for a term not exceeding ninety-nine (99) years for a ground
rental, payable annually, to any church, having its principal
place of worship situated on such lands, which has been in
continuous operation at that location for not less than
twenty-five (25) years at the time of the lease.

(2) Notwithstanding any limitation on the terms of leases
provided in subsection (1) of this section, the Legislature may
provide, by general law, for leases on liquid, solid or gaseous
minerals with terms coextensive with the operations to produce
such minerals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amendments in this
resolution shall be submitted to the qualified electors as one
amendment since the proposed amendments pertain to one subject, at
an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
of November 2003, as provided by Section 273 of the Constitution
and by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of the amendment
for the ballot shall read as follows: "The purpose of this
amendment is to authorize the sale of sixteenth section or lieu
land classified as 'forest land' and the exchange of such land for
other land of equal or greater value when in the opinion of the
State Forestry Commission such sale and exchange will produce more
income for the school district."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Attorney General of the
State of Mississippi shall submit this resolution, immediately
upon adoption by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, to
the Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
extended.