

By: Senator(s) King, Chaney, Clarke, Lee
(35th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 608

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 ENACT FEDERAL INCOME TAX RELIEF TO TREE FARMERS WHO HAVE SUFFERED
3 LOSS AS A RESULT OF THE HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER.

4 WHEREAS, after the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina, Congress
5 should consider granting tax relief to tree farmers that equates
6 tree farming to annual farming or manufacturing; and

7 WHEREAS, the timber industry is the second largest
8 agricultural industry in Mississippi, creating more than 60,000
9 jobs and touching every small business owner in South Mississippi;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in six hours Hurricane Katrina took down over 30% of
12 South Mississippi's largest trees, and most of Mississippi's large
13 timber is in the hands of 150,000 individual owners. Many owners
14 are older people who began managing their stands decades ago as an
15 uninsured investment for their retirement years or their child's
16 education; and

17 WHEREAS, cotton or soybean farmers' annual crop losses from
18 Hurricane Katrina are based on a one-year investment; and

19 WHEREAS, tree farmers made an initial investment decades
20 earlier, which is used as the base price, while other farmers are
21 allowed to use base price cost of the annual investment; and

22 WHEREAS, the long-term nature of timber producing differs
23 greatly from other agricultural industries, and thus would require
24 special consideration and study to best help those who have
25 suffered disastrous losses:

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
27 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

28 we do hereby urge the United States Congress to enact one-time
29 federal Income Tax relief to Mississippi tree farmers who have
30 suffered loss as a direct result of the Hurricane Katrina disaster
31 by authorizing a generous casualty write-off.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
33 the President of the United States, the Commissioner of the
34 Internal Revenue Service and members of Mississippi's
35 Congressional delegation, and be made available to the Capitol
36 Press Corps.