

By: Senator(s) Butler, Chaney, Dearing,
Fillingane, Frazier, Gollott, Hyde-Smith,
Jackson (11th), Jordan, King, Little,
Moffatt, Posey, Simmons, Thames, White,
Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 564

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY
2 FOR RECEIVING THE RON BROWN AWARD FOR CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AND
3 THANKING THESE CITIZENS FOR THEIR DISASTER RESPONSE EFFORTS IN
4 MISSISSIPPI'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

5 WHEREAS, Weyerhaeuser Company's disaster response efforts
6 earned a Presidential corporate leadership award at a White House
7 ceremony on November 29, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership
9 recognizes outstanding employee and community relations and was
10 presented to Weyerhaeuser Company for its disaster relief efforts
11 following the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. Its guide, *Rebuilding a*
12 *Community: An Employer's Guide to Assisting Employees in a*
13 *Disaster*, has been praised by national homeland security officials
14 as the gold standard for disaster relief programs and has been
15 used as a benchmark by relief organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, the award is sponsored and managed by The Conference
17 Board, a global research and business membership organization.
18 President Bill Clinton established this Presidential Award in
19 honor of the late U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, who firmly
20 believed that businesses do well by doing good; and

21 WHEREAS, during a ceremony at the White House Indian Treaty
22 Room, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez presented the
23 Ron Brown Award to Steven R. Rogel, Weyerhaeuser Company Chairman,
24 President and Chief Executive Officer. Rogel dedicated the award
25 to Weyerhaeuser's disaster coordinator, partners and volunteers
26 who attended the afternoon ceremony; and

27 WHEREAS, recognized at the ceremony were Weyerhaeuser
28 disaster coordinators, impacted Gulf Coast employees and volunteer

29 employees and retiree participants in the loaned-employee program
30 and leaders of North Carolina Baptist Builders, the faith-based
31 group and key partner in Weyerhaeuser's relief and rebuilding
32 efforts; and

33 WHEREAS, in the days following Hurricane Katrina, which
34 became the nation's worst national disaster after it hit the Gulf
35 Coast August 29, 2005, Weyerhaeuser established a senior
36 management committee, authorized donations of cash and building
37 materials and appointed an experienced disaster coordinator. More
38 than a year after the disaster, Weyerhaeuser is still at work
39 helping Gulf Coast Communities with combined disaster relief and
40 support, to date totaling more than \$2.8 Million; and

41 WHEREAS, Disaster Coordinator Katy Taylor was in coastal
42 Mississippi within days of the disaster to begin advocating for
43 impacted employees and retirees, acting as liaison with relief
44 agencies and insurance companies. The company soon established
45 its unique loaned-employee program, which covers salaries plus the
46 costs of travel and up to 60 days of living and meal expenses for
47 employees (and costs for retirees and spouses) who participate in
48 rebuilding projects for employees, retirees and community members.
49 Other more standard programs were established to help the 128
50 impacted Weyerhaeuser families, including professional counseling,
51 an adopt-a-family and employee-to-employee donation fund; and

52 WHEREAS, Weyerhaeuser's loaned-employee rebuilding work has
53 centered around three Mississippi communities where the company
54 has operations: Long Beach/Gulfport, McComb and Magnolia,
55 Mississippi, plus the New Orleans area, where retirees suffered
56 damage. To date, nearly 300 employees and retirees from across
57 the United States and Canada have volunteered more than 42,000
58 hours and helped rebuild 50 homes as part of the loaned-employee
59 program; and

60 WHEREAS, participants who visited Washington, D.C., and were
61 recognized during the Ron Brown Award program included: Ernesta

62 Ballard, Weyerhaeuser Senior Vice President for Corporate Affairs,
63 who led the company's efforts; employee Alan Pace and his wife,
64 Polly, of Long Beach, Mississippi; employee Ivy Pittman and his
65 wife, Betty, of McComb, Mississippi, who lost their home to
66 Katrina but will soon move into a new home being built by
67 Weyerhaeuser volunteers; employee John Sonnamaker, Manager of
68 Weyerhaeuser's iLevel building materials service center in the
69 Long Beach-Gulfport, Mississippi, area, where many of the impacted
70 employees work; and

71 WHEREAS, Weyerhaeuser employs almost 5,000 people at more
72 than 40 locations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, including
73 heavily impacted communities in South Mississippi and Louisiana.
74 The company manages more than 2.4 million acres of timberlands in
75 the three states. Weyerhaeuser Company, one of the world's
76 largest integrated forest products companies, was incorporated in
77 1900. In 2005, sales were \$22.6 Billion. Headquartered in
78 Federal Way, Washington, it has offices or operations in 18
79 countries, with customers worldwide. Weyerhaeuser is principally
80 engaged in the growing and harvesting of timber; the manufacture,
81 distribution and sale of forest products; and real estate
82 construction, development and related activities; and

83 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
84 comprehensive disaster relief efforts of this company, whose
85 citizenship commitment continues to make a difference in the
86 Mississippi coastal communities where its employees live and work:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
88 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
89 we do hereby commend Weyerhaeuser Company for receiving the Ron
90 Brown Award for Corporate Leadership and thanking these executives
91 and employees for their disaster response efforts in Mississippi's
92 Coastal Communities, extending the best wishes of the Legislature
93 in their future endeavors.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
95 Ernesta Ballard, Weyerhaeuser Senior Vice President for Corporate
96 Affairs for the company and its employees, and be made available
97 to the Capitol Press Corps.