

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96-4736, by Representatives Morris Boldt, Benton, Carlson, Hatfield, Basich, Sheldon, Kessler, Grant, Ogden, Brumsickle, Chappell, Pennington and D. Schmidt

WHEREAS, Everett and Mae Uskoski purchased an eighty-acre tree farm in 1965 "with something to do after retirement in mind"; and

WHEREAS, They planted their first five thousand seedlings with the help of two sons; and

WHEREAS, Everett and Mae are actively involved in the Clark County Farm Forestry Association, he on the board of trustees and she as secretary; and

WHEREAS, Their tree farm is a family operation benefiting from the help of eight children and their families; and

WHEREAS, This body honors Everett and Mae Uskoski who were named Washington State's 1995-96 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, This prestigious honor is given to the top non-industrial tree farmer who has demonstrated exemplary forest management skills, substantial interest in the Tree Farm Program, abilities in relating to other landowners and special human interests; and

WHEREAS, The Uskoskis were nominated for the final from among one thousand one hundred certified tree farmers state-wide selected for the title from five finalists and will compete in the regional competition and, if successful, the national competition; and

WHEREAS, Their tree farm is the home to many deer, elk and other wild life; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors utilize her set trails throughout the acreage; and

WHEREAS, The Uskoski's work with children in the classroom and in the woods, sharing the importance of trees as a renewable resource and the myriad of wood products that surround our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, The Uskoskis share the sentiments of Joyce Kilmer in his poem *Trees* when he says, 'I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree... Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree'; and

WHEREAS, Private non-industrial forestry is an exercise in democracy and the private enterprise system; and

WHEREAS, Washington's Tree Farm Program is a part of the American Tree Farm System, a nationwide membership of nearly seventy thousand landowners who collectively own ninety-five million acres; and

WHEREAS, The American Tree Farm System is a fifty-year old network that brings together forest landowners who are committed to protecting water and soil quality and providing wildlife habitat and quality recreation opportunities at the same time they produce timber products; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-eight percent of the timber harvested in the United States comes from non-industrial private woodlands like the Uskoski's;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend Everett and Mae Uskoski for being named Washington's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and wish them the best of luck in the regional competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk to Everett and Mae Uskoski.

Thereby certified to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4736 adopted by the House of Representatives
March 6, 1996.

Timothy A. Martin, Chief Clerk