



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2017

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

WHAT: Rally in support of Indiana State Forests

WHEN: Monday, February 20 / 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: South Atrium, Indiana State House, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis

WHO: Approximately 400 members of the public are expected along with several presenters, including:

- Morton Marcus, economist & columnist
- Jeff Stant, Indiana Forest Alliance
- Jesse Kharbanda & Tim Maloney, Hoosier Environmental Council
- Jesse Kirkham, Heartlands Group of Sierra Club, Indiana Chapter
- Shari Wagner, Poet Laureate of Indiana
- schoolchildren, ecologists, theologians, and others.

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE:

Since 2002, commercial logging on Indiana state forests has increased 400%. The Division of Forestry's strategic plan calls for about 40% of its budget to come from timber revenue, incentivizing an increase in logging. Public forests should be managed for multiple uses, not just timber harvests. At this rally, citizens who believe that more of our state forests should be set aside from logging will assemble for this first-ever statehouse rally in support of Indiana's taxpayer-owned forests.

Senate Bill (SB 420), authored by Republican Senator Eric Bassler, would set aside 10% of state forests from logging as ecological reference areas and for wilderness recreation. The Senate Natural Resources Committee heard testimony on SB 420 on February 13. Committee Chair Sue Glick (R-13) will decide by Feb. 23 if the bill will be voted on in the full Senate.

More background on this bill and the case for support:

<https://indianaforestalliance.org/senate-bill-420/>

<https://indianaforestalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/SB420-infographic.pdf>

Photos available upon request.