

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1       A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for  
2 Tom Casperson, former member of the House of Representatives and  
3 the Senate.

4       Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of the  
5 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Tom Casperson. A  
6 steadfast public servant, he worked tirelessly during his  
7 legislative tenure for the residents of the Upper Peninsula and all  
8 Michiganders; and

9       Whereas, A life-long resident of Escanaba, Tom Casperson  
10 worked in his family's log truck business for 27 years, 12 as  
11 owner/operator. He was proud of the fact that he was the third  
12 generation to participate in the family business. Hours of working  
13 in the woods and driving log trucks through the Upper Peninsula  
14 forged his respect and sense of responsibility for the natural

1 resources of our state and instilled a passion for their sustained  
2 and strategic use. He was active in his profession as a member of  
3 the Michigan Association of Timbermen and the Timber Producers  
4 Association. A log truck accident and his subsequent efforts to  
5 pursue safety measures and design changes in the industry inspired  
6 him to run for elected office; and

7       Whereas, Tom Casperson served for 14 years in the Legislature,  
8 relying on his experience in business and forestry, his faith and  
9 passion for the interests of the Upper Peninsula, and his  
10 willingness to work with all interested parties to address the  
11 problems facing our state. First elected in 2002 to the House of  
12 Representatives, he served 6 years representing the One hundred-  
13 eighth District. In the House, he held the position of Assistant  
14 Majority Whip. During this time, he served as chair of the  
15 Conservation, Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee and the  
16 subcommittee on Forestry and Mineral Rights. He was vice chair of  
17 the Transportation Committee and minority vice chair of the  
18 Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources Committee. He  
19 also served on the Agriculture, Energy and Technology, and Veterans  
20 Affairs and Homeland Security committees, and the Appropriations  
21 Subcommittee on Transportation; and

22       Whereas, In 2010, Tom Casperson was elected, and reelected in  
23 2014, to the Michigan Senate, representing the Thirty-eighth  
24 District for 8 years. In the Senate, he served as chair of the  
25 Natural Resources and Transportation committees. He also served on  
26 the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism; Reforms, Restructuring and  
27 Reinventing; Families, Seniors, and Human Services; and Finance  
28 committees; and

29       Whereas, Tom Casperson's ability to listen and courteously

1 discuss contested issues provided him with an avenue to champion  
2 matters important to his constituents. He worked hard to find  
3 common ground and consensus on contentious issues, such as mining  
4 and land management, that allowed economic development in northern  
5 Michigan while also protecting the natural resources that make the  
6 Upper Peninsula a special place. He took the lead on incorporating  
7 the castle doctrine in state law, protected the autonomy of the  
8 Mackinac Bridge, and required the state to implement a Land  
9 Management Plan. He secured funding for a wide variety of key Upper  
10 Peninsula projects, including repairing infrastructure in Houghton  
11 County following the "thousand year flood," aiding numerous  
12 communities impacted by the historic Freeze Crisis in 2014, and  
13 rebuilding a breakwall in Grand Marais Harbor that had been in  
14 disrepair for decades. His perseverance and ability to work across  
15 the aisle resulted in his sponsoring 118 bills that became public  
16 acts during his 14-year tenure as a legislator. Moreover, he was  
17 recognized by many organizations as being an effective legislator,  
18 with several awarding him Legislator of the Year including *MIRS*  
19 *News* in 2013; and

20       Whereas, Tom Casperson loved helping people. He was willing to  
21 listen and forge relationships and give the time to mentor the next  
22 generation of leaders, and he was humble and passionate in these  
23 efforts. His devotion to the people of Michigan and his passion to  
24 provide a voice for the Upper Peninsula will not soon be forgotten.  
25 The Senator's sincere faith in God, concern for people, and  
26 legislative efforts and achievements will impact the state for many  
27 years; now, therefore, be it

28       Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives  
29 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute

1 to honor the memory of Tom Casperson, a member of the Michigan  
2 House of Representatives from 2003 to 2008 and the Michigan Senate  
3 from 2011 to 2018; and be it further

4 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
5 Casperson family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.