



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Scott Walker, Governor Reply to:

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December 13, 2013

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Chairman
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Richard Wedepohl
Madison

To Joint Committee on Finance members,

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is writing to you in support of the proposed 2013 Wisconsin Forest Practices Study grant authorized for passive review by JCF Pursuant to s. 26.105(1) Wis. Stats and submitted by Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) and Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA).

The 16 million acres of forests in Wisconsin have been the foundation for maintaining Wisconsin's status as a national leader in wood consuming industries for several generations. Our forests play an integral role in Wisconsin's tourism/recreation industry and provide exceptional ecological and social benefits in a variety of settings.

It has been recognized by many that our forest related industries are facing a number of challenges. While many individuals and organizations may theorize and debate a particular challenge, this study is meant to investigate the cumulative effects of multiple changes taking place in the forestry community. This study is not designed to encourage or discourage a particular practice but it will provide the scientific data with which the State of Wisconsin and its citizens will be able to make informed decisions for the future of Wisconsin's forest industries.

Funding for the 2013 Wisconsin Forestry Practices Study will provide necessary, credible research to help keep Wisconsin's forest products industry competitive and vibrant, while assuring the ecological, economic and social benefits of Wisconsin's forests continue for future generations.

We believe this project will provide important data to guide policy decisions that best ensure future sustainable forest management into the future and we are pleased to offer our support for the proposed research.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck
Chairman

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Vice-Chair

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Troy Brown

James Hoppe

Mark Rickenbach

Rep. Fred Clark

James Kerkman

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