



January 22, 2015

The Honorable Scott Walker
Office of the Governor
115 E Capitol #1
Madison, WI 53702

RE: Property tax reform on productive timber lands

Dear Governor Walker:

The Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners applauds your intent to lower property taxes. We ask that you consider looking closely at the disproportionately high, and unsustainable, property taxes paid by owners of productive forest lands.

The facts are these:

- The forest products industry is the second largest in the state, generating \$20 billion in products each year, and 68,000 jobs.
- More than 64 percent of the raw materials used by the forest products industry come from the privately-owned woodlands of Wisconsin.
- The average tax on forest land in Wisconsin is \$32.61 per acre, while the average tax on agricultural land is \$3.38.
- Forest lands place very little demand on local government services.
- Timber harvests occur only intermittently. When the income from a timber sale is annualized, and the yearly management and property tax expenses deducted, woodlands typically generate a net loss for the owner.
- Woodland property tax reform is an important part of keeping Wisconsin's forest products industry and its woodlands healthy and sustainable.

Thank you for considering this reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Duren', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Doug Duren, President
Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners