



June 6, 2016

Secretary Cathy Stepp  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster St.  
Madison, WI 53707

Subject: Realignment and DNR field foresters

Dear Secretary Stepp,

From the perspective of all of us who own private woodland, your field foresters are essential to the mission of the agency. After reviewing the proposed agency realignment work, we have one simple recommendation: please do not re-direct the work of the already reduced number of field foresters from being able to work with *all* woodland owners by directing them to put their emphasis on the “unengaged.”

This proposed initiative to engage the “unengaged” is doomed for failure if it is attempted by making further reductions in the ability of field foresters to be able to work with their best customers. Landowners are already expressing their frustration, and as one woodland owner said “Once you’re in the MFL, they hand you off to consultants and forget about helping you!”

Field foresters are the face of the DNR for those landowners who are interested in sustainably managing their woodland. Their ability to provide direction and support on a personal basis is very important. And once that trust relationship is built, those landowners then become the Department’s best advocates for seeking guidance from your professionals.

We trust that your agency will move forward in a positive way. Please also know that we are ready and willing to support you as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Kristie Kasbohm  
Executive Secretary

CC: Paul DeLong, DNR State Forester  
Senator Tom Tiffany  
Representative Jeff Mursau