



May 6, 2015

Dear Joint Finance Committee Members:

This is to acknowledge our support for proposed changes to various forestry issues.

Specifically we are pleased that consideration is being given to once again allow landowners to lease lands for recreational purposes.

WAFO is supportive of the ability for landowners to remove limited portions of land enrolled in the MFL for construction or where, through no fault of the landowner, the land is no longer productive because of various environmental changes.

Removal of the current 160 closed acreage limitations is a common sense change that will no longer require landowners to have to re-title their lands to meet the current law.

Providing our local municipalities with a greater share of the MFL fees our landowners currently pay will hopefully allow them to better maintain roads and provide for other necessary infrastructure needs.

Allowing cutting notice approvals to be made without DNR approval may provide some efficiency but we remain concerned that landowners are ultimately liable for penalties which may be imposed should the harvesting ultimately be determined to violate program requirements. We would continue to be proponents of having landowners receive DNR approval prior to cutting.

Thank you for considering these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristie Kasbohm".

Kristie Kasbohm  
Executive Administrator, Lobbyist  
Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners (WAFO)

CC: Richard Wedepohl, WAFO Board of Directors