



March 21, 2016

Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

RE: Support for Managed Forest Law Changes

Dear Governor Walker:

Recently, both Wisconsin's Senate and Assembly passed Senate Bill 434, a bill with changes that will greatly benefit Wisconsin's private forest owners. The Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners (WAFO) is very supportive of this bill and look forward to the many positive changes it will bring to our state's woodland owners and forest products industry.

Private forest owners own 9 million of the 15 million acres of forestland and produce 64% of the timber used in Wisconsin's forest products industries, which contributes \$3.1 billion per year to Wisconsin's economy. One very important component of SB 434 is the ability for woodland owners with Managed Forest Law entries to lease their forest land in order to receive compensation between harvests which will allow them to continue to produce timber for the forest products industry.

These privately-owned forests also provide extensive wildlife habitat, protect ground and surface water resources, and provide a base for the 697,000 licensed hunters in Wisconsin who benefit from well-managed forests.

WAFO looks forward to your support of SB 434 **as passed** by legislature and thanks you sincerely for your support of Wisconsin's private woodland owners.

Sincerely,

Kristie Kasbohm
Executive Director
Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners

Cc: Cindy Polzin