



February 11, 2008

Rep. Donald Friske
Room 312 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Rep. Friske and Committee on Forestry:

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) members wish to support AB 785. I regret that I will not be able to attend the hearing on Feb. 12. WCF is holding our annual business meeting that day.

There is concern that some Counties view this filing as a method of resolving delinquent tax issues by restricting timber harvesting. Some Counties require either a copy of the timber sale contract or a letter signed by all property owners. WCF recommends the purpose of this cutting notice to be a method to determine whether taxes payments are up to date and to notify the DNR for purposes of fire control and prevention.

However there is a concern that some of the Counties view this method of checking to see if the taxes are paid as a means to approve the harvesting of trees. In fact some of the Counties require that a written copy of the timber sale contract be provided or a letter signed by all of the property owners be submitted. WCF recommends that this notice to cut raw forest products is simply a method to determine that the taxes are paid and a notification to the DNR that harvesting is to take place for fire control and prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the development of this program.

Sincerely,

Allan G. Waelchli, Chairman
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF)