



May 5, 2011

**Wisconsin Consulting Foresters(WCF) Position Statement on  
2011 Senate Bill 75**

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) is a 501.c.6 non-profit trade association whose members provide professional forestry services to clients throughout Wisconsin. WCF provides a voice for forestry professionals that serve the small woodland owners of Wisconsin. Members of WCF contribute greatly to the continued growth and development of forest management practices and policies throughout the State. We thank the Committee on Natural Resources and Environment for the opportunity to comment on 2011 Senate Bill 75.

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF), following review of 2011 Senate Bill 75, find potential for the Bill to have significant negative impacts on the natural and artificial regeneration of the forests of this State. Between 2003 and 2008 the average annual removals of timber from the forests of Wisconsin were 327 million cubic feet. In these years the average net annual growth exceeded harvest and other removals by 259 million cubic feet. In 2008, 65,000 individuals were employed by the forest products industry. Wisconsin's forest products industries comprise 15.2% of all manufacturing sectors and provide \$3 billion per year in wages to the Wisconsin economy. This industry is based on a renewable resource that is becoming non-renewable in parts of this State where deer populations are making our woodlots look like pastures as opposed to diverse, complex ecosystems with variable structure. If these woodlands cannot be regenerated due to excessive deer populations, our economy is going to experience an adverse impact.

As Natural Resource professionals we appreciate the need to have as many management tools available to us as possible when managing the forest. We have been seeing natural regeneration and artificial tree planting projects failing due to decimation from deer browsing. As Foresters we have the ability and tools to successfully regenerate the forest in all areas of this State; however, the biggest risk to that success is browsing by a deer herd that is above acceptable levels. WCF does not take a stance on whether the tools that are being used to manage deer herd populations are appropriate. We do believe that the Department of Natural Resources has hired dedicated professionals that have been well trained to manage the natural resources of this State including the deer herd. Using every tool available is absolutely essential as they work to achieve the optimum deer herd that provides a balance for recreational hunting and still allows the forests of Wisconsin to regenerate and grow. This balance will take time and will certainly mean that deer populations will fluctuate.

Some members of our organization have been able to once again recommend the planting of oak and white pine and have observed natural oak regeneration that actually has terminal buds that will equate

into optimum growth this spring in parts of the State. These observations are only possible in areas where the deer population is at target levels. These landowners are still hunting and harvesting deer on a regular basis. The problem is not the tools, it is the learning process involved in using the tools to effectively and efficiently produce the desired product and that can be frustrating and it can take time. Wisconsin can have a viable deer population and a flourishing forest ecosystem, but it may require using methods that are not always popular with all interested parties. The Natural Resource professionals will need every tool available to achieve this very fine balance that must be predicated by science and not by politics.

Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF) respectfully requests that the Committee consider leaving in place for the Natural Resource Professionals of this State all current management tools for managing the white-tailed deer population and recommend to the Senate that 2011 Senate Bill 75 be discontinued.

Sincerely,

Kimberly K. Quast, Chair  
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF)