



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Tony Evers, Governor

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January 23, 2020

Dr. Robert Slesak

Director of Applied Research and Monitoring

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

201A Green Hall

1530 Cleveland Avenue N

St. Paul, MN 55108

Re: Lake States Forestry Research Collaborative

Dear Dr. Slesak:

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry considers forestry research as one of the key components of our mission as set forth in state statute to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies on topics that affect Wisconsin's forest resources. Sound information coming from applicable research is required by our state's resource managers and policy makers in order to make the best decisions concerning our forests and timber industry.

In your September 2019 presentation to our Council, you described the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's (MFRC) commitment to exploring the possibility of establishing a regional forest resource research cooperative to include Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This early effort has a stated unifying goal to provide objective, robust information to inform the development of practices and policies that maintain the broad supply of resources and benefits from the working forest of the northern region. One of the base principles for associated research has been listed as "applied research to guide operational planning, practice, and policy".

Dr. Slesak
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The Wisconsin Council on Forestry would like to express our support of your efforts to establish a Lake States Regional Research Collaborative. Our members represent a wide cross-section of the forestry community including industry, conservation, consulting foresters, and timber producers along with representatives for both small and large private forest owners, and many other stakeholders. With our Council's participation we see this as an excellent opportunity for our members to be involved in helping to identify priority research and then being connected to findings that can be directly applied.

We look forward to this effort succeeding.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Hirsch in black ink.

Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Matt Dellman in black ink.

Council Vice Chair