Dear Senator Baldwin:

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is in support of the Safe Routes Act. This legislation gives truckers hauling raw forest material a choice of routes including access to the interstate system for short distances. Legislation such as the Safe Routes Act, is needed to allow state legal log trucks the option to avoid rural and urban streets and highways and populated areas where pedestrian activities are numerous and where frequent intersections increase traffic safety concerns.

The Safe Routes Act is a commonsense example of modest legislative action that would simply allow truck operators the option of taking the safest most direct route from the harvesting site to the forest product facility.

Several safety-oriented exemptions diverting state legal trucks to the interstate have already been enacted with great success including specific route designations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maine, Texas, and Louisiana. These state level exemptions have been supported by State Departments of Transportation.

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry, charged by Wisconsin statute with advising our state Department of Natural Resources, legislators, and Governor on forestry matters is asking for your support of legislation that addresses this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas Hittle, Chair
Wisconsin Council on Forestry