



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Jim Doyle, Governor

Reply to:

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Frederic Souba, Jr.
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids

March 27, 2007

Mary Jean Huston
Vice Chair
Madison

The Honorable Jim Doyle
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Jeffrey Stier
Secretary
Madison

Michael Bolton
Plover

Dear Governor Doyle:

Sen. Roger M. Breske
Eland

I am writing on behalf of the Council on Forestry to express our deep concern regarding the use of Forestry Account funds to offset shortfalls in GPR. These transfers compromise the ability to address important issues affecting our forests.

Dennis Brown
Rhineland

Forests cover nearly half of Wisconsin. Our forests are both a linchpin of our economy and fundamental to our quality life. The forests of Wisconsin provide the raw material that employs 100,000 people and generates more than \$20 billion in value from forest products produced in our State. Further, more than \$5.5 billion of additional economic value is generated by forest-based recreation. Our forests provide this immense economic value while also cleaning our water and air, providing habitat for a diversity of plants and animals, stabilizing our soil, storing carbon, and providing the settings within which we live, work and play.

Troy Brown
Antigo

Leon Church
Appleton

Fred Clark
Baraboo

Sen. Russ Decker
Schofield

The Forestry Account was established following the era of the cutover and subsequent wildfires that left Wisconsin having to restore its forests. Through the effort of many people across the state and over several generations, our forests again provide an array of values that we all benefit from. However, it would be a grave mistake to assume we can turn away from our forests and the benefits we often take for granted.

Paul DeLong
Madison

Rep. Donald Friske
Merrill

Our forests face many challenges, some longstanding, others accelerating and yet others emerging. Invasive species, global competition, bio-energy, development in fire-prone areas and forest fragmentation are just a few of the issues that compel us to work harder to assure we can maintain the multitude of public benefits that are derived from our forests – both public and private. Our forests are one of Wisconsin's most important assets. It is a wise investment to assure the ability of our forests to continue to provide the suite of benefits long into the future.

James Heerey
New Auburn

William Horvath
Stevens Point

Rep. Mary Hubler
Rice Lake

Colette Matthews
Tomahawk

Kenneth Ottman
Milwaukee

The Forestry Account is needed today more than ever to ensure Wisconsin can continue to be a leader in realizing the economic, environmental and social benefits from forests, and to do so in a sustainable way, thereby assuring the ability of future generations to reap the same benefits when they take over stewardship of this priceless asset.

Robert Rogers
Custer

William Ward
Green Bay

The Council on Forestry, at its meeting on March 13, 2007, voted to express to you our

strong objection to the use of Forestry Account funds to pay GPR debt, in light of the many unmet needs with respect to our forests, both urban and rural. We urge you to maintain the integrity of the account and apply it judiciously to further the protection and sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests. Our grandchildren and their grandchildren will be the beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

Fred Souba
Chair

Cc: Wisconsin State Legislature
Natural Resources Board