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Richard Wedepohl Madison

> **Ken Zabel** Janesville

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Tony Evers, Governor

councilonforestry.wi.gov

Reply to: P.O. Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707-7921 Office: 608/261-7599 Email: henry@gltpa.org

May 14, 2019

Governor Tony Evers Room 115 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

Regarding: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Governor Evers,

As you prepare to review and vote on the 2019-2021 State Budget, The Wisconsin Council on Forestry would like to express our support for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. As you are likely aware, the Stewardship Program will expire on June 30, 2020, or half way through the next biennial state budget. The Council on Forestry encourages you to support Wisconsin's working forests and the economic value they provide by reauthorizing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

To date the Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, in partnership with the Federal Forest Legacy program, has permanently ensured 297,033 acres of industrial land will be available for future timber production, public access and wildlife habitat. Additionally, since FY2011 a portion of Stewardship funding has been utilized by County Forests adding more than 25,000 acres to their land management programs. Management of this additional County Forest acreage provides public recreational opportunities and locally retained income from timber harvesting. The Stewardship Program is an investment in land that will last for generations.

The Council on Forestry thanks you for your support of Wisconsin's working forests and the economic value they provide all of us that live in this great state.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck

Henry Schienebeck, Chair Wisconsin Council on Forestry

*Please note that due to the nature of their positions, Representative Mursau, and Senators Bewley and Tiffany, as well as Chief State Forester, Fred Souba respectfully withdraw their names as Signatories of this letter. In addition, James Hoppe abstains from signing this letter.