

Grayling OSB • 4111 West Four Mile Road • Grayling, MI 49738

November 28th, 2016

House Transportation Committee
Chairperson – Representative Glardon

My name is Todd Johnson and I am the Forestry Services Manager for Weyerhaeuser's Grayling OSB Mill. Today I would like to provide you with a few comments on the economic importance of road commission reform.

Our mill in Grayling has been in operation for over 34 years. We are the single largest consumer of forest products in Northern Lower Michigan and currently the fourth largest direct employer in Crawford County. Yet our real impact on the Michigan economy is in indirect employment. The amount of logging and trucking companies that we support is easily 3 times greater than the number of direct employees that we have.

The biggest reason why Weyerhaeuser chose Michigan as the place to start their OSB business was the amount of fiber available in this state. The forest service data then and today identifies Michigan as having one of the largest timber surpluses in the nation. In order for us to economically harvest and transport this fiber we must maintain a competitive/attractive economic environment for people to invest in our raw material supply chain.

The timing of this legislation is perfect. We are in the largest investment our industry has ever seen in Lower Peninsula consuming mills. A revamping of the rules and regulations of our road commissions in terms of our industry is long overdue and a necessary step in order to maximize the benefit of this investment for our great state! To that end I hope you can support SB's 706-708 as written.

Respectfully

Todd Johnson
Forestry Services Manager
Weyerhaeuser NR Company
4111 West Four Mile Road
Grayling, MI
49738
O-989-348-3471
todd.johnson@weyerhaeuser.com