



Representative Gary Howell, Chair  
Natural Resources Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

December 6, 2017

Dear Representative Howell,

The Michigan Association of Timbermen represents professional loggers, truckers, mill owners and foresters in Michigan.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen supports HB 5001 and Part 535- Registered Foresters, the voluntary registration of professional foresters and the establishment of the Board of Foresters.

Michigan has over 20 million acres of forestland. 12.6 million acres are privately owned, and 9.1 million acres are owned by non- industrial, small private landowners. This land annually supports over a 20 billion dollar forest products industry.

This bill includes functions, performance standards, ethics, education and experience qualifications for Registered Foresters and targets foresters that provide services to private forest landowners. With this legislation landowners will be able to easily distinguish forestry and forest management from related professions such as logging, land conversion, land use change, and other natural resource professions. It will offer private forest landowners a level of professional assurance in their forester of choice. It is important that forest landowners can be assured that the forester they work with is highly trained and educated and keeps up with current standards through regular continuing educational opportunities and training.

This bill establishes a Board of Foresters to ensure that Registered Foresters are qualified and complying with professional and ethical performance standards for the work. A Violations Committee will be established to enforce the standards.

The Registered Forester program is a Michigan-based forester qualification program and is referred to in other legislation and programs, such as the Michigan Qualified Forest Program.



The 2014 legislation to deregulate the profession of forestry was opposed by the Governor's Timber Advisory Committee, the Michigan Forest Products Council, the Michigan Association of Timbermen, the Society of American Foresters, and the Association of Consulting Foresters. Governor Snyder agreed that forests, foresters, and forest industry are important aspects of Michigan natural resources, economy, environment and socio-cultural identity.

There is a need for professional foresters to lead the ethical oversight of forestry and to help ensure scientific, sustainable and environmentally-sound forestry practices are used on all forest lands in the state of Michigan. This requires education and experience with the principles of forestry and forestry research. Registration will allow landowners to have that assurance.

A registered forester will help to ensure the impacts to other natural resources such as vegetation, soils, water, and wildlife are understood and considered when developing timber harvest plans and contracts, building roads, designating trees to be cut and all work associated with science-based forest management. Past and present experience with unsound and unsustainable forestry has led to the need to provide forest landowners with highly trained professional registered foresters. Thank you for considering our input, and please call me with any questions.

Bernie Hubbard

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bernie Hubbard', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Staff Forester Michigan Association of Timbermen  
Michigan Registered Forester M938512  
Society of American Foresters Certified Forester