



December 11, 2018

To: Members of the Michigan House Transportation Committee
From: Michigan Forest Products Council
RE: SB 396

Dear Transportation Committee:

We urge you to vote yes on SB 396. This bill would provide for the transport of forestry products and equipment on county roads, helping the industry better navigate the transportation of raw materials and finished products. Unfortunately, this bill is facing opposition primarily based on misleading information.

Critics of SB 396 are overlooking the forest products industry and the benefits this bill will serve.

1. SB 396 has been reasonably compromised and negotiated with both the County Road Association and county road commissions. Similar but less than current provisions for agriculture, the legislation primarily provides for improved bonding to pay for road repairs and slow-moving equipment.
2. Without SB 396, more of Michigan's forest growth will be lost to mortality, contributing to a decline in forestland, increase in disease and health. This bill will help to attract investment to Michigan's forest industry because of an improved commercial flow of raw material and products, while utilizing our abundant forest resources.
3. Michigan Forest Products Council partners with local road commissions, provides best management training to loggers, and has supported fuel taxes to protect Michigan roads.

As a member of the forest products industry and a citizen concerned about Michigan's rural economy, we urge you to vote yes on SB 396.

The Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) works to promote, protect and sustain a globally competitive forest products industry in Michigan. MFPC is a statewide organization representing the forest products industry, which owns millions of acres of timberland and employs over 96,600 men and women in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Scott Robbins
Director of SFI and Forest Policy
Michigan Forest Products Council

