



July 19, 2009

Dear Representative Kagen,

This is to provide input on several forestry issues on behalf of Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF). We are a professional organization of private forestry consultants that operate within the state of Wisconsin.

There are several items on which we would like to comment:

1. Timber Sales on Forest Service Land – As you are well aware, Wisconsin along with many other states is dependent on the forest products industry and its related businesses (i.e. logging, equipment sales, forestry consultants, etc.) for jobs and other economic benefits. A key part of the forest products industry is wood supply. The forest service controls a significant amount of timber on its lands. Over the years there has been a move to further and further restrict the amount of timber sold off of federal land. We recognize the value of other uses like recreation, camping, wilderness, bird watching, etc. However, we would like to see a more balanced approach to managing our national forests and other public lands. Let's protect those other uses, but still maintain a viable timber sale program within our national forests.
2. The Definition of "Woody Biomass" – With the development of alternative fuels woody biomass has become a potential new product available from our country's forest lands. It has come to our attention that wording in the Ag Bill would greatly restrict the harvest of woody biomass as a result of how it is defined. It is true that over harvesting this resource could be detrimental to our forests in the future, but this can be managed by restricting the amount harvested or better yet by requiring certain amounts to be left on the site. Many states including Wisconsin have developed biomass harvesting guidelines that will allow the harvesting of woody biomass and still protect our forest resources for the future. Please encourage the U.S. Forest Service to develop similar guidelines for use

on their lands so that this potential new product, which would be used in alternative renewable fuels, can still be used wisely.

3. Professional Input – As your committee meets and discusses new agenda items we encourage you to seek input from professional foresters in regards to forestry issues, today is a great start. Members of Wisconsin Consulting Foresters, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry Staff, Society of American Foresters, USDA – Forest Service Foresters, Industrial Foresters, and County Foresters are all professional foresters and have the best interest of our forest lands at heart. We would like to be considered/consulted on issues relating to forestry in the future. We believe that we can provide input as to how best to manage our forest lands using sustainable forest practices in a way that will benefit our forests, wildlife, water, and the public while still providing a wood resource for the forest products industry.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to have this meeting and thank you for your consideration of the above points.

Sincerely,

Kimberly K. Quast  
Chair, Wisconsin Consulting Foresters