



# Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Inc.

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wisconsinwoodlands.org



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February 1, 2022

## Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Public Hearing on February 2, 2022 WWOA in Support of AB 909 relating to the Managed Forest Law program.

Dear Representative Mursau and Members of the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation,

The Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) appreciates the opportunity to support and comment on Assembly Bill 909 relating to the Managed Forest Law program (MFL).

The WWOA organization consists of more than 1600 members owning more than 251,000 acres and represents the 350,000 plus private woodland owners owning more than 11 million acres in Wisconsin. WWOA has a stated mission to help conserve and enhance Wisconsin's 11 million acres of privately owned woodlands. WWOA understands the value of Wisconsin's Forest Tax Law programs and the role they play in assisting Wisconsin's private woodland owners in sustainably managing their woodlands.

WWOA notes that since 2015 Act 358 was enacted there have been several legislative and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources changes made to the definition of "material change" and how it will be enacted. As MFL contract holders, we respectfully request that the Legislature and WI DNR provide those holding MFL contracts an opportunity to participate in these discussions. This provision was created to reassure MFL contract holders that they will have a choice when changes are made in the program to either agree to follow these changes and continue in the MFL program or to disagree with these changes and exit the MFL program without penalty. Woodland owners participating in the MFL program select either a 25- or 50-year contract period. "Material changes," whether created through legislation or rule, can have a significant impact on contract holders and the overall MFL program.

WWOA recognizes the value of the MFL program and the importance of woodland owners to retain certain rights while participating in an incentive program that provides forest crops for our state's forest product industries. By creating fair contracting provisions the MFL program becomes more palatable and less threatening, resulting in more woodland owners' participation and fulfillment of their contract obligations thus providing renewal resources for Wisconsin citizens and industries.

Respectfully,

Thomas P. Kempen  
President