



# WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Scott Walker, Governor

Reply to:

P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
Office: 608/261-7599  
Fax: 608/266-6983  
Email: [henry@newnorth.net](mailto:henry@newnorth.net)

June 16, 2015

**Henry Schienebeck**  
Chairman  
Butternut

**Jane Severt**  
Vice-Chair  
Rhineland

**R. Bruce Allison**  
Verona

**Troy Brown**  
Antigo

**Matt Dallman**  
Tomahawk

**Paul DeLong**  
Madison

**Tom Hittle**  
Tomahawk

**James Hoppe**  
Rhineland

**James Kerkman**  
Bangor

**Rep. Jeffrey Mursau**  
Crivitz

**Kimberly Quast**  
Fond Du Lac

**Mark Rickenbach**  
Madison

**Paul Strong**  
Rhineland

**Sen. Tom Tiffany**  
Madison

**Virgil Waugh**  
Milton

**Richard Wedepohl**  
Madison

Honorable Senator Alberta Darling  
Honorable Representative John Nygren  
Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance members

RE: Fiscal Bureau Paper #321, Timber as an Agricultural Product

Dear Co-Chairs Alberta Darling, John Nygren and Committee Members,

The Council on Forestry asks that you recognize timber as an agricultural crop for purposes of the Manufacturing and Agricultural Tax Credit and do not approve the modification in #321.

Appointed by the Governor, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry is a diverse group of leaders in the forestry community who direct Wisconsin's effort to maintain Wisconsin's forest products industry. The Council was created by State Statute 26.02 in July 2002 to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies on a host of forestry issues in the state.

To provide a more level playing field, the Council believes that those landowners who grow the raw material needed by our forest products industry should have the same tax credit available to them as they have for producing our state's other agricultural products.

In a communication from the Department of Revenue, which provided a general analysis only, we were advised that an expansion of the tax credit that included forest products grown on lands classified as "productive forest", "agricultural forest", "undeveloped" or "other", would have an individual/corporate revenue cost in the realm of the following:

FY 2015: \$1.0 million

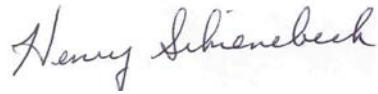
FY 2016: \$4.1 million

FY 2017: \$5.0 million

FY 2018: \$5.4 million

Thank you for considering this request and if we can be of any further assistance on this matter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Henry Schienebeck, Chair  
Wisconsin Council on Forestry

\*Please note that due to the nature of their positions, Representative Jeffrey Mursau and Senator Tom Tiffany respectfully withdraw their names as signatories of this letter.

Attachments: DOR correspondence, LFB paper #321

Cc: Representative Robin Vos, Assembly Speaker  
Representative Jim Steineke, Assembly Majority Leader  
Representative Peter Barca, Assembly Minority Leader  
Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Majority Leader  
Senator Mary Lazich, Senate President  
Senator Jennifer Shilling, Senate Minority Leader  
Representative Jeff Mursau, Chair, Assembly Committee on Environment  
and Forestry  
Representative Cory Mason, Ranking Member, Assembly Committee on  
Environment and Forestry  
Representative Alvin Ott, Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural  
Resources and Sporting Heritage  
Representative Nick Milroy, Ranking Member, Assembly Committee on  
Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage  
Senator Robert Wirch, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Mining,  
Forestry and Sporting Heritage