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WAFO Praises Passage of Senate Bill 434; Thanks Members of the Senate for their Support

Today, the Wisconsin State Senate passed Senate Bill 434, which makes a number of changes to the Managed Forest Law. On behalf of Wisconsin's private woodland owners, the Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners (WAFO) would like to thank Senator Tom Tiffany for his leadership on moving this bill forward and to all the Senate members who recognized the importance of this bill for maintaining Wisconsin's forest resources.

SB 434, which passed on a bipartisan vote, would make the Managed Forest Law a more viable option for those landowners who want to keep growing the fiber needed by Wisconsin's forest products industry by:

- Allowing tree farmers to be able to receive income between harvests by allowing use of their land for various recreational activities.
- Eliminating the special tax that had been imposed on timber when it was harvested.
- Making it clear that an agreement with the state will be managed as a contract.
- Allowing more flexibility to landowners on sale of land.
- Recognizing that contracts may need to be modified should natural disasters negatively affect the ability of the forests to produce product.
- Maintaining the requirements for landowners in the programs to have and follow a state-approved sustainable woodland management plan.

SB 434 now moves to the State Assembly where it is available to be scheduled for a floor vote. We respectfully request that Speaker Vos schedule this bill for a vote where we would expect a similar bipartisan outcome.

The Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners is a grassroots landowner organization committed to working for fair tax treatment of Wisconsin's privately-owned forest lands, and to rectifying unfair, impractical and onerous provisions of the current Managed Forest Law, many of which have been unilaterally enacted by the state after land was enrolled.

For more information, visit the WAFO website at www.wiafo.org, call (608) 218-4789, or email WAFO at info@wiafo.org.

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