



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MFL Bill Passes State Assembly
Members of Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners Thank Assembly

Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners (WAFO) Executive Director Kristie Kasbohm released the following statement regarding the passage of Senate Bill 434 (SB 434):

“Private landowners scored another victory last week with the passage of SB 434. Last Thursday, February 18, the State Assembly passed SB 434 on a bipartisan vote, ensuring its forward movement to Governor Scott Walker’s desk.” Led by Assembly co-author Representative Jeff Mursau, SB 434 does the following:

- Allows tree farmers to receive income between harvests by allowing use of their land for various recreational activities
- Eliminates the special yield tax imposed when timber was harvested
- Makes it clear that the Managed Forest Law (MFL) is now a contract, rather than an “agreement”
- Allows withdrawal of 1 to 5 acres for construction or sale
- Provides allowances for lands damaged by natural disasters
- Reduces the withdrawal penalty to a maximum of 10 years
- Allows closure of 320 acres in any one municipality
- Returns a substantial amount of the closed acreage fee to local municipalities

Members of WAFO would like to thank Representative Mursau, along with Speaker Robin Vos and Representative Mary Czaja for their outstanding leadership in ensuring that private landowners’ voices were heard.

“SB 434 had a robust debate in both houses of the State Legislature and we hope that MFL landowners across the state are pleased with the results after many years of stakeholder discussions surrounding these important issues. We look forward to SB 434 moving to Governor Walker’s desk, and we respectfully request his consideration and signature on this hallmark bill, which provides so many benefits to those landowners who are making substantial contributions to our state’s economy each and every day.”

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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.