



September 5, 2018

Richard G. Chandler, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Revenue
2135 Rimrock Rd
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Property tax bill requirements per Stats 74.09(3)(b)1

Dear Secretary Chandler:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners. We are a 501(c)6 non-profit organization which represents Wisconsin's private woodland owners and have worked with your Department for the past six months in an effort to see that property tax bills provide information needed by landowners to know how their rural lands are valued and taxed.

Section 74.09(3)(b)1. Stats, requires that the estimated fair market value of lands be shown on property tax bills. Currently, this information is not provided on tax bills for lands classified as "Undeveloped," "Ag-Forest," or "Productive Forest" if these lands are located on a parcel that also has lands classified as Agricultural.

WAFO brought this problem to the attention of Department of Revenue officials six months ago. After several rounds of communication, we were asked to provide an example of a tax bill that would show the required information. We did that and provided them with the attached example on July 18. We understand that your staff has a heavy workload but we would appreciate an update and timeline on when this change can be completed.

Our organization is very interested seeing this improvement to tax bills made, not only to satisfy existing statutes but also to better inform property owners on how their lands are taxed. We believe our example shows this can be done without creating an undue burden on the preparation of the tax bills. Certainly, there may be even easier ways to add the additional information that would be more efficient.

Thank you for letting us know how your Department plans to proceed and how we might offer assistance. Feel free to contact me by email at info@wiafo.org or at (608) 218-4789.

Sincerely,

Kristie Kasbohm, Executive Director
Wisconsin Alliance of Forest Owners

Cc: Sen. Tiffany; Rep. Mursau; Rep. Kooyenga; Sen. Bewley; Gov. Walker; Henry Schienebeck, Wisconsin Council on Forestry; Don Peterson, Wisconsin Consulting Foresters; Nancy Bozek, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

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