

Wetherell Land Surveying LLC.

P.O. Box 219

Baldwin, Mi., 49304

Phone 231-745-3441

Phone 231-832-5670

Fax 231-745-8494

e-mail : wetherellandsurveying@msn.com



June 10, 2014

Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee,

I would like to voice my opposition to the deregulation of the Forestry profession in Michigan. As a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, we have been having problems with people working within the Timber Industry trying to overstep the bounds of the Michigan Occupational Code and performing work that should be completed by a Licensed Professional Surveyor. In each case, the person we are having problems with is not a member of the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters, nor a registered Forester. I feel that based on my experience, the benefits of working with a registered Forester are many fold. Our Society has been talking with the professional Forester groups about how a mandatory licensure program for Foresters would make it easier to connect with the various groups within the industry, and also easier to ensure that the public is not being misled or misguided by unprofessional conduct. I have witnessed the performance of a professional Forester on our family property, and was very impressed with the level of service we were given, and the end result of the timber sale was exactly as we expected.

Foresters serve a very important function to the public, and are relied upon heavily for their expertise on many subjects. They can be involved in assisting clients with the tax aspects of selling timber, contract negotiation, estate planning as it pertains to forest management, and the basic function of marketing timber. In many cases, the value of timber may be one of the largest assets that a property owner has. I believe it is imperative that we have ethical, qualified, professional foresters representing this investment for our citizens.

Non professionals working in the Forestry industry can and do harm the public in many ways. They can be responsible for timber trespass, property damage, non-performance of contract, loss of future timber value, etc.

Please keep the public's best interest in mind and vote no on the deregulation of the Forestry profession.

Sincerely,

Patrick N. Johnson, P.S.

Owner, Wetherell Land Surveying LLC.