

The Michigan Association of Timbermen

May 20, 2014

Senate Infrastructure Modernization Committee

Chair: Senator Roger Kahn, District 32
Vice Chair: Senator John Pappageorge, District 13
Senator Darwin Booher, District 35
Senator Jack Brandenburg, District 11
Senator Mark Jansen, District 28
Minority Vice Chair: Senator Morris W. Hood III, District 3
Senator Rebekah Warren, District 18



Dear Senators:

The Michigan Association of Timbermen strongly opposes several of the bills you have before you.

HB 4630 - Revises registration fees. Eliminates the farm/log plate on vehicles under 8,000 pounds.

Issue: Removal of the log/farm plate penalizes the hardest working segment of Michigan's industries: farming and logging simply because the Secretary of State failed to implement a monitoring system for the issuance of the log/farm plate to prevent the abuse that has ensued.

Requested Revision: Allow one log/farm plate per business. This will provide a logging company or farm the ability to have one vehicle that is strictly for business use and have the benefit that was intended instead of the abuse that ensued through this plate option.

HB 5452 - Increases permit fees for overweight trucks to \$500 – currently at \$100

Issues:

- A 400% increase in permit fees. UNACCEPTABLE.
- A small logging firm that moves their job site multiple times per year with 4 pieces of equipment was \$400 and would now be \$2,000. A large logging firm that moves 20 pieces of equipment per year with annual permits was \$2,000 and is now \$10,000
- Will force honest trucking/hauling companies out of business as the dishonest haulers move equipment without permits causing more road damage

Revision Request: Implement a maximum of a 100% increase to \$200 per annual permit to move overweight/oversized vehicles and machines.

HB 5453 - Doubles fines for overweight and oversized vehicles.

Issue:

THIS DOES NOTHING FOR ROAD REPAIRS – fines and penalties for overweight/oversized vehicles go to the Library Fund – they have for a LONG TIME

Revision Request: Since this does NOTHING to generate revenue to fix the roads, leave the fines and fees for overweight/oversized vehicles and machines as is.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen and its 350+ member companies urge you to enact the requested revisions noted above to the 3 specific bills detailed here.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Owen".

Brenda Owen, Executive Director

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