



MEMBERS:

SEN. PHIL PAVLOV, VICE CHAIRMAN
SEN. MIKE GREEN
SEN. MIKE KOWALL
SEN. ARLAN MEEKHOF
SEN. REBEKAH WARREN, MINORITY VICE CHAIR
SEN. MORRIS HOOD III

THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
ENVIRONMENT AND GREAT LAKES
SENATOR TOM CASPERSON
CHAIRMAN

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Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes
Minutes

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes was held Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present: Senators Caspersen, Pavlov, Green, Kowall, Meekhof, Warren, Hood
Members excused: none

Senator Caspersen called the meeting to order and led committee and audience members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt the Committee Rules

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| SB 51 | Sen. Booher | Property tax; classification; qualified forest property tax program; modify. |
| SB 52 | Sen. Booher | Property tax; classification; qualified forest property; provide property tax exemption. |
| SB 53 | Sen. Booher | Property tax; other; qualified forest property recapture tax; revise. |
| SB 54 | Sen. Caspersen | Property tax; classification; allocation of qualified forest property recapture tax; modify. |
| SB 55 | Sen. Green | Property tax; exemptions; definition of qualified agricultural property; revise. |
| SB 56 | Sen. Booher | Natural resources; forests; private forest management; provide oversight from the department of agriculture and rural development and provide for conservation district assistance to owners of forestland. |
| SB 57 | Sen. Meekhof | Agriculture; other; Michigan agriculture environmental assurance program; expand to include lands not utilized for traditional or production agriculture such as forest management. |
| SB 58 | Sen. Moolenaar | Natural resources; forests; promotion of forestry and the development of the forest products industry in the state; provide for. |
| SB 59 | Sen. Booher | Natural resources; forests; commercial forests; modify eligibility requirements for commercial forests and allow for withdrawal under certain circumstances. |

Senator Kowall moved to adopt the committee rules. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Casperson, Kowall, Meekhof, Hood (4/7)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Absent: Senators Pavlov, Green, Warren (3)

Senator Warren entered the committee room at 9:07 a.m.

Senator Casperson placed before the committee Senate Bills 51-59 (Sens. Booher, Casperson, Green, Meekhof, & Moolenaar) for testimony. Senator Booher and his staff member, Kara Butters, explained the bill package and answered questions from members.

Senator Pavlov entered the committee room at 9:13 a.m.

The following people testified on Senate Bills 51-59 and answered questions from committee members:

- Bill Botti, Michigan Forest Association—Support and Oppose the package
- Lori Phalen, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts—Support (all bills)
- Brenda Owen, Michigan Association of Timberment—Neutral (all bills)

Senator Green entered the committee room at 9:16 a.m.

The following people submitted cards, but did not testify, on Senate Bills 51-59:

- Rebecca Park, Michigan Farm Bureau—Support (all bills)
- Judy Augenstein, Great Lakes Timber Professionals—Support (all bills)
- Scott Everett, Lake States Lumber Association—Support (SB 51-57)
- Amy Trotter, Michigan United Conservation Clubs—Support (SB 52-55 & 57-59), Neutral (SB 51 & 56)
- Gary Melow, Michigan Biomass—Support (all bills)
- Gerald Grossman, Grossman Forestry Company—Support (SB 53), Oppose (SB 51 & 56)
- Derek Bajema, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development—Support (all bills)

Senator Casperson adjourned the committee at 9:30 a.m.

Date Approved by Committee: January 31, 2013

**An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.