

Mark Doty
1.28.2016



January 28, 2016

H.584

Chair Partridge, Vice Chair Lawrence, members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products, my name is Mark Doty, I am community affairs manager for Plum Creek. Plum Creek owns and manages timberland in the Northeast Kingdom. We have foresters on staff, our lands are SFI certified and our lands are enrolled in the UVA program. I am here today to testify on several provisions of H.584, An act relating to miscellaneous timber harvesting, forestry, and State lands issues.

As a timberland owner and manager we are concerned with timber security. We feel that there should be harsh penalties for the bad actors who are intent on theft, but we are also concerned that some cases are inadvertent mistakes that may get swept into the criminal category.

Trip tickets and notification

The criminal penalties and fine provisions within the trip ticket and notification requirements lead me to conclude that these are targeted at timber security. I like the goal, but feel that there are more comprehensive ways to accomplish timber security. Instead of enacting these requirements, I suggest and am willing to help work on, a comprehensive review of the timber security problems that need to be addressed, the penalty structure currently in place, and a comprehensive program to address the problems.

Right to conduct forestry operations

We appreciate the intent under the right to conduct forestry, however, by limiting that right to those operations following AMPs, accepted silviculture and the provisions of this chapter, we feel that the very entities that this affords protection against, will be empowered to go looking for problems. We encourage you to drop those requirements.

Timber Trespass

Page 29 line 3 (b) "acted through mistake" has been struck out. There should be provision for single stumpage in cases of inadvertent mistake.

Thank You



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Re: Shared road costs, a need relative to state lands, private lands, forestry and public outdoor recreation.

My name is Mark Doty, I am community affairs manager for Plum Creek, a timberland owner in the Northeast Kingdom.

The State of Vermont entered into the Champion International Working Forest Lands Grant of Public Access Easement to provide perpetual public recreational access to approximately 84,000 acres of privately owned working forest in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and as part of the Easement the State covenants to sharing repair, maintenance and reconstruction costs for designated roads on the Property.

There are great benefits to the public from this arrangement such as perpetual vehicular access to a very large block of contiguous forest, access to hunting, fishing and other forms of recreation. There is a pressing need for consistent funding to support the state's obligation year after year, since we are discussing needs relative to state lands, private lands, forestry and public outdoor recreation, perhaps there would be avenues through legislation to account for this important need.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark G. Doty'.