

January 18, 2017

TO: House Agriculture and Forestry Committee  
FROM: Put Blodgett, President, Vermont Woodlands Association  
RE: Forestry issues in which VWA has an interest

The Vermont Woodlands Association is a 501 (c) (3) whose objectives (briefly) are to encourage good forest management among its members, to educate the public to the importance that trees play in Vermont—from its economy to its environment, and to represent those interests before governmental bodies. VWA has a membership of approximately 800 forest landowners.

First, let me state how delighted I am, that, after all these years of effort, this Committee has finally become the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee, two intertwined and inseparable parts of the Green Mountain State!

I must confess that VWA has not as yet separated its many forestry interests into those to be considered by different committees so will briefly list some of those interests.

Anything to do with the Use Value Appraisal Program  
DFPR recommendations to improve successional planning  
DFPR recommendations for Harvest Notification Reports  
Forest Integrity Study Committee's recommendations on Act 250 and municipal land use zoning to protect forest blocks and wildlife connectivity (Act 171)  
Workers Comp rates  
Eliminating sales tax on logging equipment, repairs and fuel—equality with ag  
Right to Practice Forestry—again, equality with ag  
Protect funding for Working Lands Board  
Combat invasive pests and diseases  
Make trucking weights comparable to surrounding states  
Explore any possibilities to improve low-grade wood markets  
Examine estate tax effects on ag and forest lands  
Change Act 64's removal from UVA for failure to provide Activity Report to Act 57's "After providing 30 days notice to the owner" before removal

Thank you.