

**Committee Name:**

**Assembly Committee – Rural Affairs and Forestry  
(AC–RAF)**

**Appointments**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_Appt\_pt00

**Committee Hearings**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_CH\_pt00

**Committee Reports**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_CR\_pt00

**Clearinghouse Rules**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_CRule\_01–

**Executive Sessions**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_ES\_pt00

# Hearing Records

## 01hr\_ab0600

01hr\_sb0000

**Misc.**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_Misc\_pt00

**Record of Committee Proceedings**

01hr\_AC–RAF\_RCP\_pt00

01-10-02 PH AB 375, AB 600, AB 644

& ~~LEB 4244~~ & 4281 - Exec. AJR 51

AB 695 AB 696

AB 600

# Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

## Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: January 10, 2002 Meeting Type: Public Hearing  
Location: 300 NE - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u>

Kristina Boardman  
Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

# Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

## Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: January 10, 2002 Meeting Type: Executive Session  
Location: 300 NE - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>

Kristina Boardman  
Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

AB 375

John in favor

Paul DeLong in favor

- doesn't ensure payment  
or a good, quality  
cutting

cost: 107. ??

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AB 600

Kriske in favor

Paul DeLong in favor

school forests not included

Janette Colette Matthews in favor  
WCFA

Ray Guries - Soc. of American Foresters in favor

# Vote Record

## Assembly - Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

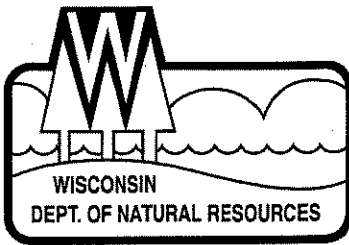
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Moved by: Loeffelholz      Seconded by: Schneider  
 Clearinghouse Rule: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AB: \_\_\_\_\_ SB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR: \_\_\_\_\_ SJR: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR: \_\_\_\_\_ SR: \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt: \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
  - Introduction
  - Adoption
  - Rejection
  - Indefinite Postponement
  - Tabling
  - Concurrence
  - Nonconcurrence
  - Confirmation

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	6	0	2	

Motion Carried       Motion Failed



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Scott McCallum, Governor  
Darrell Bazzell, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY 608-267-6897

### Assembly Bill 600

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs & Forestry

Department of Natural Resources Testimony  
Paul DeLong, Deputy Administrator  
Division of Forestry  
January 10, 2002

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Paul DeLong and I am the Deputy Division Administrator of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you to discuss AB 600.

The Department of Natural Resources strongly supports AB 600. This bill expands the authority of DNR and counties to sell timber damaged by fire, wind, snow, hail or ice in a manner that the DNR or county considers is in the best interest of state or county.

Each year the State undergoes a number of weather-related events that damage our forest resources. Efficient and timely salvage of the trees from these lands is imperative in order to harvest the timber before it degrades, minimize potential for insect and disease buildup, reduce fire hazard and lessen disruption to recreational trails and areas. Our forests, individual landowners, the economy and the public all benefit.

Current law streamlines and facilitates these efforts only on State Forests and State Parks and only for wind and fire events. The Department of Natural Resources manages nearly a million acres of land not designated as State Forest or State Park. In addition, we are in partnership with 29 counties managing over 2.3 million acres under the County Forest Law. The problems associated with salvage are not unique to the State Forests and Parks. All of the land under Department jurisdiction has the same urgency and need for action after catastrophic events. We feel this bill provides the consistency across designation and ownership lines necessary to streamline the salvage process, where it is warranted.

The all-to-recent history has shown us that catastrophic events requiring quick action are not all limited to wind and fire events. Snow, ice and most-recently, hail storms have proven to be equally destructive. We are in the process of completing salvage on several thousand acres of timber dead and dying from a hail storm in the Brule River State Forest from 2000. By addressing only wind and fire, current law is inadequate to address these pressing needs. This bill encompasses all of the foreseeable events that do not allow us, as land managers, to anticipate and plan for.

AB 600 increases flexibility and allows objectives to be met in a timely manner. Please do not mistake the fact that property objectives and public interest are foremost in the minds of property managers in assessing how to respond to such incidents. The course of action chosen relates to these factors. AB 600 increases flexibility but does not mandate a particular course of action. Furthermore, the Department makes every effort to offer sales

in a competitive bidding process, even when unexpected events take place. This will not change. Competitive bidding allows all interested parties to participate and ensures the public receives the best price for its resource. Nonetheless, having the flexibility to use direct sales when timing is critical, will ensure that the public is best served in the response taken by the Department or County Forest.

We urge the committee to support AB 600 and advocate its passage by the Legislature.

I appreciate this opportunity to express the Department's support for AB 600 and would be glad to answer any questions you might have.



**January 10, 2002 Testimony before the Committee on Rural Affairs & Forestry**

**Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.**

**The Wisconsin County Forests Association is asking you to support AB 600. Counties currently are operating under Chapter 26, as a unit of state government when they harvest damaged timber.**

**This bill more clearly defines the authority of counties to continue to harvest wind or fire damaged timber, in addition to broadening the definition of 'storm damaged' to cover damage from snow, hail or ice.**

**Decisions to harvest under this provision are done in cooperation with and the oversight of DNR forestry, as reflected in the partnership between the state and counties covered by Chapter 28.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes.**

**Quick action to harvest downed or damaged trees in situations where timber is damaged is of utmost importance. The adjustments to the law made in this bill**

**broadening of the definition of storm damage**

**and more clearly defining the county's authority**

**will allow the foresters to continue managing the county forests in the best interests of the county's citizens and the general public, while protecting the county's investment in these most valuable public lands.**

**Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry**

Society of American Foresters—Wisconsin Chapter Testimony

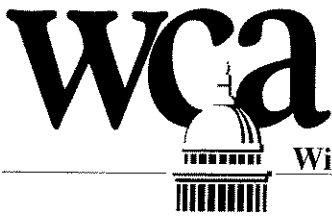
Raymond P. Guries, Chair  
Legislation and Policy Committee  
and Professor of Forestry  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
January 10, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth and Committee Members:

My name is Raymond Guries. I am a professor of forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am also a member of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The Society of American Foresters represents more than 500 professional foresters helping to manage the more than 15 million acres of Wisconsin's forestlands.


Our Wisconsin chapter supports AB 600 relating to the sale of damaged timber by the Department of Natural Resources and from county forest lands. This legislation would simplify and expedite the process by which damaged timber is sold from county forests and bring it in line with the process used on State Parks and State Forests. In addition, it would expand the meaning of 'damaged' to include snow, ice and hail (in addition to fire and wind) and apply it uniformly to both counties and state forests and parks.

We support these technical changes to Wisconsin Statutes 26.22, and several subsections of 28.11. County and State Forest managers need the flexibility to deal with the salvage of damaged timber in a safe and timely manner. If the provisions of AB 600 are adopted, the public will enjoy greater safety in their recreational pursuits, risks from fires and insect outbreaks will be reduced, and higher stumpage fees may be collected before timber degrades. We believe these are all positive outcomes for the people and forest resources of Wisconsin.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

FROM: Jennifer Sunstrom, Legislative Associate 

DATE: January 10, 2002

SUBJECT: Support for AB 600

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a few brief comments regarding Assembly Bill 600, which in part grants county forestry committees the authority to sell damaged timber from county forest land.

County forests provide multiple benefits to Wisconsin's communities by preserving natural areas to be used for fishing, hunting, hiking, and many other types of recreation. However, maintaining these lands can be expensive. Allowing counties to sell damaged timber will not only provide counties with revenue to service these areas, but will also promote the removal of forest debris that can create fire hazards.

Therefore, we respectfully request your support for AB 600. Thank you for considering our comments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the WCA office.