

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_ab0788a

01hr_sb0000

Misc.

01hr_AC–RAF__Misc__pt00

Record of Committee Proceedings

01hr_AC–RAF_RCP_pt00

02-13-02 PH - AB785,AB786,AB787
— AB788, AB790
Exec - AB786,AB787,AB790

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: Feb. 13, 2002 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 Northwest - 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Kristina Boardman
Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: Feb. 13, 2002 Meeting Type: Public Executive Session
Location: 328 Northwest - 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>



Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk



Wisconsin Society of American Foresters

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Society of American Foresters–Wisconsin Chapter Testimony
February 13, 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 AB788 relating to the creation of a council on forestry. In fact, such a council was created in 1981 by Executive Order; the proposed legislation places it within Wisconsin Statutes. The current Governor's Council on Forestry continues to address items of importance regarding the protection and management of Wisconsin's forests, and to advocate for their conservation and use on behalf of the general public. We believe that retaining – and even strengthening – this council will benefit both the forests of the state and the many industries and communities that depend on a sustainable forest resource.

In reviewing some of the proposed provisions of AB788, we believe that a place on the council should be reserved for a member of the Society of American Foresters. If the purpose of the council is to advise the governor, the legislature, the Wisconsin DNR and other agencies on a variety of forest health, protection, management, research and economic development issues, then the voices of the professional forest resource management community will be essential to this end. We understand that other organization and interests also have important contributions to make to such a council. However, no other interest can represent the resource managers, or address the full spectrum of ecological, economic, social and technical issues pertaining to forests, as capably as the Society of American Foresters.

We believe that a continuing Council on Forestry will provide an excellent forum at which to consider the many issues that relate to forest resource management. In addition, a broadly based council having members from diverse interest groups will prove valuable in advising the Wisconsin DNR and others on matters of importance concerning forests, their conservation and their use.



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Reply to: 241 Shore Acres Drive
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715/423-7550
Fax: 715/423-7550

Dan Meyer
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids

William "Butch" Johnson
Vice Chairman
Hayward

John Ahl
Black River Falls

Miles Benson
Wisconsin Rapids

Sen. Roger M. Breske
Eland

Leon Church
Appleton

Richard Connor
Long Lake

Gene Francisco
Madison
Rep. John Gard
Peshtigo

Robert Govett
Stevens Point

Steve Guthrie
Minocqua

Byron Hawkins

Bangor

Richard Hall
Oshkosh

James Holperin
Eagle River

Rachel Jordan
Dodgeville

Tim Laatsch
Wisconsin Rapids

Nick Moncel
Eau Claire

Cathy Nordine
Land O'Lakes

Thomas Schmidt
Neenah

Eugene Schmit
Tomahawk

Rep. Lorraine Seratti
Spread Eagle

Robert Skjera
Milwaukee

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry
Honorable John Ainsworth, Chairman
RM 309 N State Capitol
Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

February, 13, 2002

Dear Representative Ainsworth and Committee Members;

The Governor's Council on Forestry would like to go on record in support of AB 788 creating a council on forestry in Wisconsin Statutes.

The current Governor's Council on Forestry was established by executive order in 1981 as a result of public concern about the protection and sustainable management of Wisconsin's valuable forest resources. Since its inception, the Council has advocated for implementing the principles of sustainable forest management on all of Wisconsin's 16 million acres of public and private forestland. This advocacy has resulted in a non-regulatory approach to forest management that has provided a strong forest industry in our state while improving the condition of our forests and the ecological and social benefits they provide.

Wisconsin leads the nation in paper production, value of shipments of forest products and total wages paid to workers in the forest industry. Forest products produced in our state make up 18% of our annual gross state product.

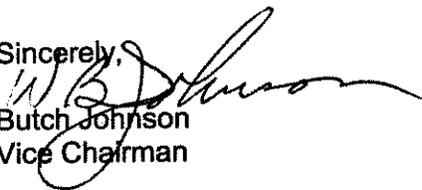
It is extremely important that the legislature support laws and initiatives that enhance the sustainable management and protection of our forests to allow our state to compete in the global economy. This proposed legislation, with the following suggested changes, strengthens the importance of forestry in state government. The Council requests that the committee consider the following changes as they deliberate this legislation.

- **Name the Council "The Governor's Council on Forestry".** On page two line two change Council on Forestry to "Governor's" Council on Forestry. The current Governor's Council on Forestry was established by executive order in 1981. It has matured over the years and has gained recognition as an advocate for the principles of sustainable forestry among legislators, the public and the forestry community. It would be fitting to retain the same name as the council is codified in statutes.
- **Allow the Governor to nominate all members including the legislative members.** Page two lines 5,6,7&8. Consistent with the current council appointments, we request that "appointed" be stricken and replaced by "recommended" to ensure that the Governor has nomination authority in consultation with the senate and assembly for the council's legislative members.

- **Add four (4) more members.** We request the addition of four more members to better represent forestry interests and the public on the council. This would increase the council membership from 15 to 19 members. The current Governor's Council on Forestry has 22 members. We recommend that the additional membership include a member representing urban and community forestry interests, a member representing the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters, a member representing a timber producers organization and a member representing the secondary wood using industry. The Council also suggests that the definition of a industrial forestland owner be clarified as one that owns and manages a large tract of forestland to supply raw forest products to the forest industry as a business. And a non-industrial forestland owner as a forestland owner that manages his/her land for a multitude of benefits including forest products. The Council also suggests that the member representing education be changed to a person representing the educational community such as a teacher or member of a conservation educational program like Trees for Tomorrow.

The Council is pleased with the language in this legislation that better defines the scope of the Council, representation and staggered term limits. We are also pleased that the legislation provides a forum for the Council to report the condition of our forests and forest industry to the legislature so that we can effectively work together to sustain the economic, ecological and social benefits from our forests. Thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Butch Johnson
Vice Chairman