1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

LRB-4684/2 SRM:wlj:ch

2005 SENATE RESOLUTION 14

March 7, 2006 - Introduced by Senators ZIEN, SCHULTZ, A. LASEE and DECKER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: the lack of access to available timber, primarily on public lands.

Whereas, the lack of access to available timber on public lands is the premier problem facing Wisconsin's forest industry; and

Whereas, layoffs, mill closures, and temporary shutdowns are occurring on a regular basis across the state; and

Whereas, 20 percent of our logging contractors went out of business between 1997 and 2000; over 5,000 high paying jobs have been lost in the paper industry since 2000; and 15 medium-to-large sawmills have closed their doors in the last 5 years; and

Whereas, the Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) significantly reduced the amount of timber available for sale in the past 10 years, and last year the CNNF harvested less than half of the timber required to maintain forest health, which translates to reduced revenue to local communities from direct forest service payments and a significant reduction in raw material needed to sustain our forest industry; and

Whereas, Wisconsin loses one job for every 100 acres of productive forest land that is excluded from sustainable forest management practices, and the CNNF has already excluded 446,000 acres of the forest from timber production, which equates to a permanent loss of 4,460 jobs; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's state forests are harvesting less than 30 percent of the timber required to maintain forest health, and state-owned forest lands purchased by the stewardship account are harvesting less than 5 percent of the timber required to maintain forest health, which is costing the state nearly \$10 million in lost revenue; and

Whereas, last year the state failed to harvest 350 million board feet on state and federally owned land which, if harvested, could sustain 17,500 new well-paying jobs in Wisconsin's forest industry; and

Whereas, when both state and federal forests are not harvested at plan over \$100 million in additional revenues are lost; and

Whereas, on average an acre of Wisconsin forests grows enough biomass to provide energy equivalent to one barrel of crude oil every year, and federal lands that exclude timber management could produce at a minimum the biomass equivalent to 200 million barrels of crude oil per year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, That the senate of the state of Wisconsin respectfully urges all members of Congress and the president of the United States to return the national forest management responsibilities to the Wisconsin counties containing these lands, excluding federally designated wilderness area, for the purpose of improving the stewardship of our forestlands and our economic base.