



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

FROM: Representative Jeffrey Mursau, Chair

RE: Committee Discussion Relating to Forest Tax Programs

DATE: October 29, 2012

I apologize for missing the last meeting of the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations, and thank Representative Rivard for chairing the meeting in my absence. I understand that it was a productive meeting.

Staff report to me that the Special Committee had an extended discussion relating to releasing tribal lands from the managed forest land (MFL) and forest tax law (FTL) programs and that, while there was a good sharing of views on the subject, the committee did not reach agreement on how to move forward on the topic.

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is currently reviewing the MFL program. It is considering revisions to various aspects of the program, including how the program treats enrolled land that it is sold. As a member of the Council on Forestry, I will raise the issue of releasing tribal lands from the MFL program as part of this review. If the Council recommends a change to the treatment of tribal lands in the MFL program, I think it would have a good chance of passing the Legislature. For this reason, I will hold any further discussion of the topic in the Special Committee until the Council on Forestry has completed its review of the program and made its recommendations.

If you have any questions about this, or if you would like to discuss this or any other topic before the committee, please contact me through my Madison office at 608-266-3780, or call me directly at 715-854-3477.

JM:jr