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The Voice of the Connecticut Forest Products Industry

March 12, 2010

Testimony in support of:

R.B. 388: AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE.

Submitted by: Joan Nichols – President CT Professional Timber Producers Association, Inc.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association strongly supports Section 12 (c) (2) of R.B. 388 which would provide for the establishment of a separate nonlapsing account within the General Fund to be known as the "timber harvesting revolving fund". Proceeds from state timber sales would be allocated to this fund for the development of forest management plans which would in turn provide for additional timber sales to support the fund.

Proceeds from state timber sales should go to support the sound management of Connecticut's state forest lands. The state forest lands program has been severely underfunded in recent years and there has been a significant decline in the number of timber sales being put out to bid from state forest lands. The provision put forth in R.B. 388 would provide for sustainable funding for Connecticut's state owned forest land program while contributing to the economic viability of the state's forest products industry. Sound forest management has a long standing history of paying for itself and R.B. 388 provides such an opportunity for the states public forest lands program.