



PO BOX 71 LEBANON, CT 06249 Ph 860 948-0432 WWW.TIMPROCT.ORG

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*The Voice of the Connecticut Forest Products Industry*

March 6, 2011

**Testimony in support of:**

**H.B. 6263 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSITION FORM THE TEN MILL PROGRAM**

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

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

According to statistics from the CT DEP Division of Forestry, approximately 14,000 acres of private forest land are coming up for reassessment under the 10 mil program. Assessment on this land will be significantly higher than the assessment on this land fifty years ago. H.B. 6263 will allow 10 mil land to be assessed at the same value as comparable forest land under PA 490. Connecticut forest land is a precious resource that should not be jeopardized by an archaic tax law that will saddle private forest land owners with a tax bill they cannot afford. Over 50% of the land base in Connecticut is forested and over 80% of that land is held in private ownership. Working forest land is the resource base for the Connecticut forest products industry which contributed \$131.5 million dollars to the state's economy in 2007 and supplies over 10,000 jobs.

The Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association urges your support of H.B. 6263 to sustain working private forest land in the state of Connecticut.