

February 23, 2018

Support for SB 102 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE-RELATED STATUTES.

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

I ask for your support of SB 102 regarding amendments to the testing requirements for Certified Forest Practitioners and other technical changes. These changes are favorable to improving the regulatory climate for the foresters and loggers that work in the Connecticut forest products industry.

As a member of the Forest Practices Advisory Board and Board member of the Connecticut Professional Timber Producers Association I would ask for one additional amendment to this legislation. During the 2017 legislative session there was a proposed amendment to Sec. 23-65g regarding appointments to the Forest Practices Advisory Board. That proposed amendment was not included in SB 102 and I would ask that the amendment be included in the 2018 proposed amendments. While the statute includes a Board representative from the forest products industry, the legislator who appointed that position did not follow statute and the position was filled by someone who is not a representative of the industry. The CT DEEP Forest Practices Advisory Board currently does not have a representative from the CT forest products industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Here is the language from 2017 which I would ask to be included in an amendment to SB 102:

Section 1. Section 23-65g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from passage):

(a) There is established a Forest Practices Advisory Board consisting of the State Forester or [his designee, and nine public members, six of whom shall be appointed one each by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives and three of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The members appointed shall include a professional forester in private practice, a

representative of the forest products industry,] the State Forester's designee, and nine public members, six of whom shall be appointed by the legislative leaders, as follows: (1) One by the president pro tempore of the Senate who shall be a professional forester in private practice, (2) one by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be a professor of forestry or natural resources from a college or university located in the state, (3) one by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be a member of the public, (4) one by the speaker of the House of Representatives who shall be an owner of not fewer than ten but not more than two hundred fifty acres of forest land, (5) one by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a representative of the forest products industry, and (6) one by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a member of the public. Three public members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall consist of one member who is an officer of an environmental organization headquartered within the state which is concerned primarily with forests, [a professor of forestry or natural resources from a college or university within the state, an owner of not less than ten nor more than two hundred fifty acres of forest land,] one member who is a representative of an environmental organization not primarily concerned with forests and one member who is a member of an inland wetlands agency.

(b) The appointed members of the initial board shall be appointed so that the terms of two members shall expire on December 31, 1993, the terms of two members shall expire on December 31, 1994, the terms of two members shall expire on December 31, 1995, and the term of one member shall expire on December 31, 1996. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of four years. Vacancies on the board shall be filled [in the same manner as the original appointments] by the appointing authority. Each member of the board shall serve until his successor is appointed.

Joan Nichols

Certified Forester

CT Lic. #F 113

140 Brush Hill Road

Franklin, CT 06254

Phone and FAX: 860 642-4292

Cell: 860 917-5190

E-mail: nicholsforestry@comcast.net