



MICHIGAN  
**FOREST  
PRODUCTS**  
COUNCIL

## **FOREST INDUSTRY HONORS TOP NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL**

### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, BILL O'NEILL, RECOGNIZED DURING NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK || FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LANSING, Mich., October 19, 2017 – In honor of the 57<sup>th</sup> National Forest Products Week, the Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) awarded Michigan Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director, Bill O'Neill with their annual **Tuebor Award** today.

"Deputy Director Bill O'Neill has been and continues to be a leader for Michigan," said MFPC Chairman, Todd Johnson. "Over the past 31 years, he has an accomplished record as a public servant, particularly his successful effort to help continue the progress the forest products industry has made since the Governor's first Forest Products Summit in 2013."

The MFPC cited his efforts to:

- Promotes an increase in DNR timber sale outputs
- Advocates working relationships with DNR field staff in the forest industry
- Advises a portion of the Governor's Forest Products Summits
- Leads the Timber Advisory Committee
- Recognizes forest industry opportunities
- Takes a boots-on-the ground approach when it comes to solving industry issues

The annual **Tuebor Award** recognizes significant accomplishments in business and natural resource policy and recognition focuses on leadership in support of well-managed forests that are vital to Michigan's quality of life, environment and economy.

"This award recognizes not only his forestry advocacy but also an uncommon passion to improve the industry for all landowners and forestry-related businesses. He recognizes the tremendous job creation potential of this renewable, natural-resource-based economy," said Louisiana Pacific Corporation Regional Resource Manager, Dan Toivonen.

National Forest Products week, designated by Congress through Public Law 86-753, started in 1960 and occurs during the week beginning on the third Sunday in October and recognizes the importance of products from our forests.

The total economic benefit of Michigan's forest products industry grew from \$17.8 billion in 2013 to \$20.3 billion in 2014 thanks to the help from Bill and his staff. The state has 20.3 million acres of forestland, including 2.5 million acres of federal National Forests and 312,500 private landowners. Additionally, Michigan's value-added international exports reached \$505 million in 2014.

The Michigan Forest Products Council works to promote, protect and sustain a globally competitive forest products industry in Michigan. The Michigan Forest Products Council is a statewide organization representing the forest products industry, which owns millions of acres of timberland and employs over 96,600 men and women in Michigan.

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