



MICHIGAN
**FOREST
PRODUCTS**
COUNCIL

GOV SIGNS QUALIFIED FORESTRY PACKAGE, INDUSTRY LEADER SELECTED TO SPEAK AT PRESS CONFERENCE

TODD JOHNSON OF WEYERHAUSER APPLAUDS GOV'S SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO EXPAND FOREST INDUSTRY | JUNE 6, 2013

LANSING, Mich.—Today Governor Rick Snyder signed a collection of bills, known as the Qualified Forestry Package, which will enable non-industrial, private landowners to take a more active role in the management of their forested land.

The package includes Senate Bills 51, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58 and House Bills 4243, 4244, and 4069.

“This piece of legislation will allow us to reach those private landowners that have not yet taken an active role in the management of their forest,” said Todd Johnson, forestry services manager for the Grayling-based Weyerhaeuser mill and MFPC board member, at the bill signing. “This package includes important corrections to the Qualified Forestry Program. It also will empower conservation districts to help educate landowners about the importance of active stewardship.”

The QFP package enables greater access through incentives that private landowners to qualify with a forest management plan for the QFP program. The program will be administered by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

Through conservation districts, MDARD will offer resources to educate landowners and to facilitate forest management—including habitat restoration, wildlife food plots and wood fiber for job providers.

“Fiber supply has been a long-time issue for the industry in this state,” said Scott Robbins, Director of SFI and Forest Policy. “Sixty- five percent of forestland in the state is under private ownership. We hope this package will give us greater access to that land, understand its natural features and the resources available, so we can build a more efficient and knowledgeable forest products industry.”

“Demand in the state is growing and will continue to grow as the economy recovers and demand for raw materials picks up,” Robbins said. “It’s in our state’s best interest to have a system in place so we can be ready to accommodate the future. We applaud the governor for his decision to sign these bills into law now.”

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