



**Michigan Forest Products Council**  
Business Advocacy for the Forest Products Industry

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## **ICYMI: Industry Leaders and Congressman Dan Benishek Establish Core Issues for 2013**

*Amidst Michigan's Iditarod qualifier, leaders in Michigan's fiber products industry lay out common goals to enable job growth for UP residents.*

**MARQUETTE, MI**—Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) Chairman Mike Sussman offered opening remarks for Congressman Benishek's (R-1) Saturday morning fundraiser, during the UP 200 Sled Dog Races.

Dr. Benishek's support played a key role in 2012 for fiber production in the nearly 2.3 million acres of forest service woodlands housed in Michigan's first congressional district. The Crystal Falls, Mich. congressman recently introduced legislation that created jobs Northern Michigan by ensuring more timber is responsibly harvested in federal forests.

Recently appointed to the Conservation, Energy, and Forestry subcommittee, MFPC looks forward to working with Dr. Benishek on a core set of common goals in the new year:

- **Expand the Potential of Michigan's National Forests**  
Nationwide, timber sales on National Forests have increased roughly 20%. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack has stated that these increases are expected to continue. However, National Forests spend nearly two-thirds of their forestry budgets on paperwork processing. MFPC is actively pursuing measures to streamline administrative processes to timber sales on federal forest lands.
- **Keep Our Great Lakes Safe**  
The relationship between our State's water and forest resources is co-dependent—what affects one had a direct impact on the other. Alongside Governor Snyder's renewed emphasis on Water Quality, MFPC will work at the federal level on new measures for Water Quality improvement. MFPC is committed to ensuring the fiber products consumers want and need are safely and sustainably made in Michigan.
- **Continue Job Creation in Northern Michigan**  
Job growth is the cornerstone of our state economy. MFPC remains laser-focused on job creation through the promotion of natural-resource based industries. Continued investment in equipment and facilities that manufacture natural-resource based products will help keep Michigan families at work.

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