



MICHIGAN  
**FOREST  
PRODUCTS**  
COUNCIL

## **GOV VETOES BILL TO PROHIBIT BUREAUCRATIC OVERREACH BY DNR**

**SCOTT ROBBINS OF MICHIGAN FOREST PRODUCTS COUNCIL FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY | | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 15, 2015**

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LANSING, Mich.—Today Governor Rick Snyder vetoed SB 78 which prevents unaccountable overregulation of land, which would render the land to unproductive status and severely impact Michigan's thriving forest products industry.

SB 78 originated after the DNR proposed a program under Governor Granholm in which more than 650, 000 acres of public and private land in the northern-lower peninsula alone would have been designated as biodiversity stewardship areas or BSAs. Recommendations for additional designations of land in the Upper Peninsula were never received after many concerns were raised over the last several years on what the designations would mean regarding use and access of the land.

While the department is no longer pursuing the same BSA program, efforts continue on a scaled-back approach which could have similar impacts now that the bill has been vetoed. Many question the need for such regulation when more than 20 other state and federal programs exist to protect natural resources and biodiversity. SB 78 was needed for the long-term to ensure sustainable and balanced forest management in Michigan.

In a letter from the Governor, he commented that the bill could have restricted the DNR from effectively managing forests and threatened forest certification.

"Biodiversity is essential to how our world-class natural resources are managed," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "While there are opportunities to look into our forest management practices, reducing biodiversity authority will only cause confusion and hurt our forests."

Only the future knows what it holds in store for Michigan's forestry industry but hopes for a solution are in the minds of forestry industry professionals everywhere.

"The Michigan Forest Products Council stands in its conviction that SB 78 is a positive step for the forestry industry. While we disagree with Governor Snyder's actions, we remain committed with the new Legislature and Administration to work towards a solution," said Scott Robbins, Director of SFI and Forest Policy.

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