

Representative James Lower, Chair  
House Committee on Local Government and Municipal Finance

Debra Huff, Executive Director,  
Michigan Forest Association

October 16, 2019

**Opposition to House Bill 4915** (submitted by Representatives Berman, Garza, Robinson, Wozniak)

It has come to our attention that this bill will be examined today, October 16, 2019. While the Michigan Forest Association is unable to attend we respectfully submit the comments below.

The Michigan Forest Association (MFA) represents over 450 private forest owners, foresters, and citizens interested in sound forest management in Michigan. We provide non-partisan outreach to members regarding forest management and forest issues in Michigan. MFA advocates for sound management and treatment of Michigan forests.

We oppose this bill for the following reasons.

- The legislation puts all liability of damage done by a falling tree on the landowner, regardless of how it happened. If it were due to an act of God, and not negligence from a landowner, then insurance will cover this.
- This does not make sense in a woodlot situation, where natural forest systems regularly suffer mortality and could lead to frivolous lawsuits not related to irresponsible management.
- This may make sense in an urban situation, but the bill does not specify this.