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Honorable Gary Howell, Chairman
House Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman Howell and Committee Members,

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) respectfully submits this written testimony in support of HB 5333.

The Forest Development Fund, (FDF) established in 1993, is primarily funded with revenue from timber sales derived on state forest lands. Money in the fund is to be used to pay principal and interest on bonds issued for forest management operations, including reforestation, forest protection, timber stand improvement, and to obtain and maintain forest certification of sustainable forest standards in state forests.

GLTPA fully supports that HB 5333 defines and clarifies what forest management operations and practices are with the language added to this important legislation. HB 5333 also clarifies what FDF monies cannot be used for. Because funding for the FDF comes from timber sale revenues, GLTPA feels it is extremely important those funds be re-invested in forest management operations and practices.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the board and members of the Great lakes Timber Professionals Association.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA
Executive Director

Bruce "Sparky" Enstrom, GLTPA
President

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is a non-profit organization representing loggers, truckers, sawmills, paper manufacturers, private and commercial forest landowners, forestry professionals, school districts, road commissions and outdoor recreation enthusiasts in Michigan and Wisconsin. GLTPA's mission is to "Protect a Multiple-Use Forest for Future Generations".