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Statement by Senator Tom Tiffany on Signing of Senate Bill 434 – Managed Forest Law Revisions

Madison – State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) released the following statement after Governor Walker signed Senate Bill 434:

“With a stroke of Governor Walker’s pen, Wisconsin’s Managed Forest Law (MFL) program has now been confirmed as a contract between the state and the landowner. Since I was first elected to the Assembly in 2010 and again in 2012 to the State Senate, the Managed Forest Law program has been a major issue for constituents in my district. Senate Bill 434 reforms the MFL program to make it more user friendly and easier to administer. Besides making the MFL a contract between the enrollee and the state, Senate Bill 434 also reversed a Gov. Doyle veto which will distribute over \$18 million in closed acreage fees back to local units of government and deliver a tax cut to those harvesting trees by eliminating the severance and yield tax. Additional changes include increasing the minimum acreage for enrollment from 10 to 20 acres, providing greater flexibility for owners when transferring ownership and splitting acreage, and more rule flexibility when a natural disaster strikes property enrolled in MFL.

“Less red tape, more wood,” continued Tiffany. “This has been a mantra of mine over the last few years. It’s imperative to the economy of the Northwoods that we continue to be able to utilize our natural resources, and one of the most abundant is our forest products industry. We need to do all we can to ensure that Wisconsin mills continue to have a steady supply of Wisconsin timber. This bill helps achieve that.”

Senate Bill 434 was signed today by Governor Walker in a ceremony at Ponsse North American in Rhinelander.

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