Lake States Lumber Association
3071 Voyager Drive Ste E
Green Bay Wisconsin

Michigan Office
318 West Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933

October 11, 2011

Dear Committee on Natural Resource, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation:

Lake States Lumber Association supports SB 248 proposing to limit state land acquisitions while at the same time exempting critical purchases involving priority recreational uses.

The idea for Michigan, a state that has established an almost limitless funding mechanism to buy land, to finally establish a benchmark acreage limit in our opinion is solid, responsible policy.

There is no question that there is great value in having some land publicly owned. However, the economy and jobs are driven by private land ownership, management, production and keeping land on the tax roll not by removing it. It is a critical balancing act, and SB 248 will greatly help provide that balance.

We feel the legislation is very positive in that the State of Michigan can continue to buy land but would be required to also return an equal amount to private ownership and back onto the local property tax roll if the cap is reached.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Will Borden, LSLA Director
Quality Hardwoods Inc.
Sunfield, Michigan

Scott Everett, LSLA
Legislative Consultant
Lansing, Michigan