Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association

Testimony for SB 248

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) would like to offer the following testimony in support of SB 248.

It is recognized by the GLTPA that there is an international push to set aside land throughout the world for little or no human use. Documents included within Agenda 21, which were implemented by the United Nations and signed by President George W. Bush, include maps which clearly outline lands which have become known has PLA's or Priority Wildlife Landscape Assessments. The maps show where those landscapes are and how they are to fit within local management plans. The landscapes including large parts of Michigan fall within every major forest of the United States and surrounding countries such as Canada.

With that in mind SB248 may be the single most important piece of legislation to maintain the freedom residents of the State of Michigan enjoy while utilizing multiple use forests as we know them today.

Although it is thought by some that fragmentation is an issue in managing the overall landscape, it can also be said it is easier to take land owned by one land owner such as government out of production than it is to gain control from many landowners. We often hear how fragmentation is having a negative effect on the landscape yet there seems to be little or no conclusive information on what that negative affect is. How much fragmentation is too much?

We can all agree there are lands that should be used as natural areas but the question is, once again, how much is too much and how much cost can we afford to maintain those lands in their so called "Natural Condition". For government agencies to continue purchasing lands which may go unmanaged for years to come is simply unaffordable and more importantly unjustifiable. Given the fact mangers of those lands are unable to responsibly manage what the state already owns it hardly seems a wise use of tax payer money to have more land unmanaged.

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