

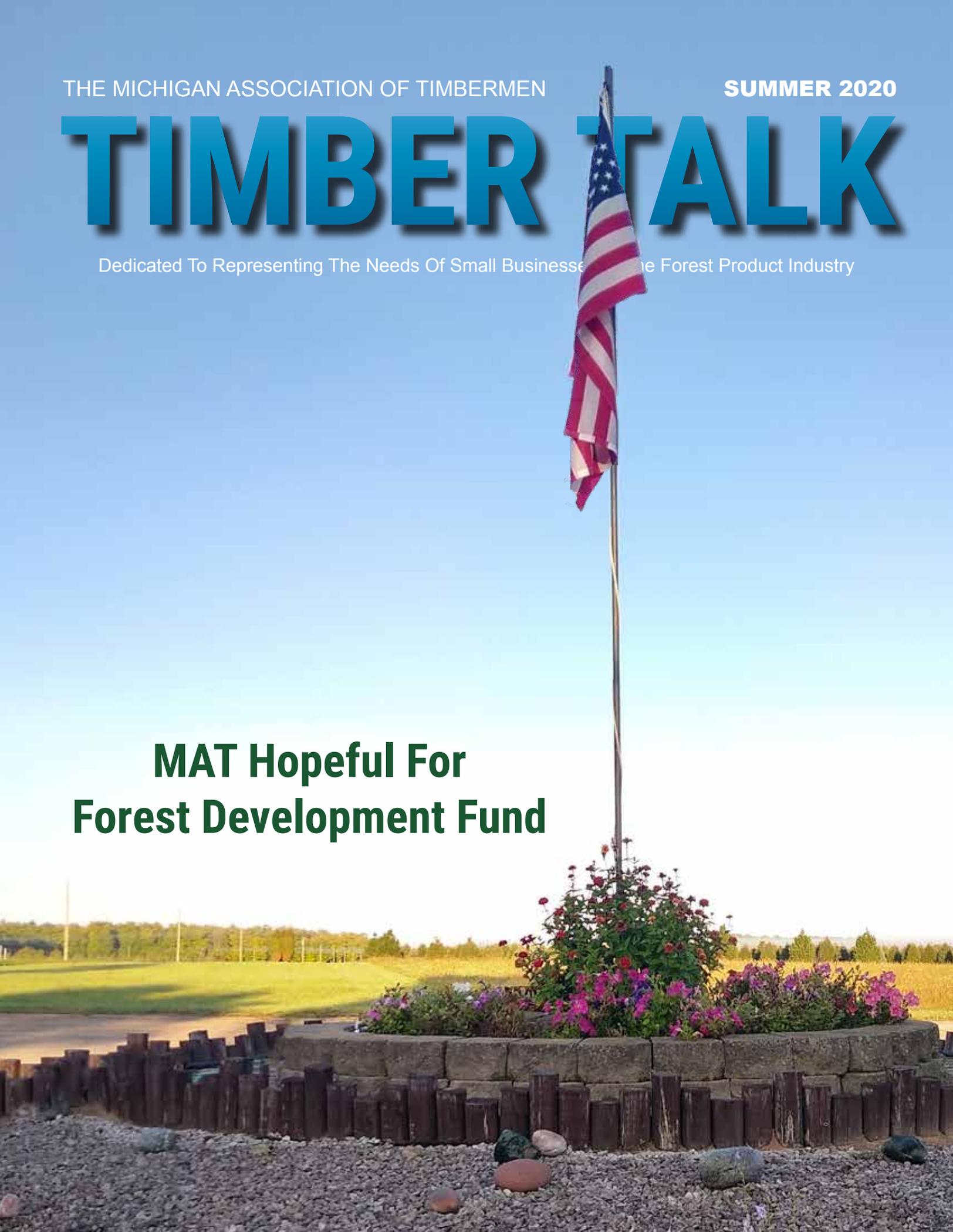
THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

SUMMER 2020

TIMBER TALK

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MAT Hopeful For Forest Development Fund



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The immediate past president of The Michigan Association of Timbermen, Wes Windover (pictured right) presents the 2019 “Legislator of the Year” award to Michigan Senator Curt Vanderwall.

Sen. Vanderwall has been instrumental in advocating on MAT’s behalf since joining the Michigan’s legislature.



Save *the* Date!

April 22 & 23 2021

Timbermen’s 46th Annual Convention

Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI

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- Plus lots of great vendors.



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AD HOC Committees will be formed for issues as they arise.				
<p>MAT OFFICE: 7350 M-123, Newberry, MI 49868 Att: Michelle Sears, Administrator Amy Wheeler, Office Manager 906-293-3236 phone, 906-293-5444 fax</p>				

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – FEDERAL FLUID POWER



RYAN BARRINGER

The Michigan Association of Timbermen is proud to announce Federal Fluid Power as our member spotlight. FFP began 40 years ago in the basement of Bill and Carol Barringer’s home, which is now a family-owned second-generation business. Bill and Carol have four sons, three of which currently work within the company.

Their son Ryan took over management following his father and is now the top technical support person for the company. This same person said he didn’t want anything to do with the family business after graduation as he had aspirations of completing a degree in special education and psychology. As time went on he found he has more of an interest and natural talent in design and engineering hydraulics.

FFP currently has three locations in Michigan: Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, and Plymouth. Ryan plans to eventually start expanding, starting in Texas. He has spent many years traveling the world for enjoyment and has found many locations that he loves; giving FFP the potential to expand anywhere he feels there is a need.

FFP is currently moving their location to a larger space in Mt. Pleasant. It seems as though every time FFP is expanding,

something monumental happens in the world and they find themselves climbing another hurdle. With perseverance, hard work, and determination FFP always comes out on top.

Ryan credits FFP’s success to their engineering expertise and their amount of readily available inventory. Ryan said they can build whole hydraulics right off their shelves. FFP is a full-service distributor for hydraulic hoses and hose components. They also carry gloves, pantsuits, and oil by the pallet.

Ryan has hit a new phase in life with the arrival of his firstborn son. With this new phase and the responsibilities that come with a child, Ryan has cut his hours from 16-18 hours a day to 12 hours a day. We wish him continued success and a family business that grows for generations to come.

We would also like to thank Ryan for Federal Fluid Power’s continuous support through the uncertain times we have all experience in 2020. 🌳



Michigan Master Logger Certification Program

2020 MICLCL Newsletter

MIMLC Update

There are currently 80 Certified Michigan Master Loggers in the program. To date, 14 Master Loggers have been recertified in 2020 and recertification is in process for another 8 Master Loggers. There are currently 11 new applicants.

Master Logger contact information is posted on the Program website, www.mimlc.com on the Find a Master Logger page. Please review your company's contact information and notify the Program Administrator of any changes.

Thank You to our Sponsor!

The financial contributions and continued support from forest industry stakeholders and proponents of sustainable forest management are what keep this program running, and it is greatly appreciated.

Support from the Michigan SFI State Implementation Committee has allowed the Michigan Master Logger Certification Program to grow and flourish in Michigan and become a successful model for sustainable forest management and third-party certification.

Funding Available for Logging Companies

Michigan has received nearly \$880 million in federal funding through the CARES Act to support various COVID-19 response actions around the state. Two critical business relief programs are available to loggers.

The \$100 million Michigan Small Business Restart Program, which will work to reduce the economic impact of the ongoing pandemic on Michigan small businesses and workers. Modeled after the Michigan Small Business Relief Program, the \$100 million will be allocated among 15 local economic development organizations to administer the grants to businesses in all 83 Michigan counties. Eligible business may apply for grants up to \$20,000 and a minimum of 30 percent of the funds must be awarded to eligible women-owned, minority-owned or veteran-owned eligible businesses. Applications for the Michigan Small Business Restart Program will be available beginning July 15, 2020, at michiganbusiness.org/restart.

The \$15 million Michigan Agricultural Safety Grant Program will provide economic assistance for Michigan farms and agricultural processors to mitigate risks of the COVID-19 virus across the state's food production industry. Grants will be available on a first come, first serve basis with \$10 million total available for agricultural processors and \$5 million available for farms. Applications will be processed by Michigan-based GreenStone Farm Credit Services, one of America's largest rural lenders. Applications will be available beginning July 15, 2020 with information available at michiganbusiness.org/agsafety.

Businesses that have received a PPP or other emergency loans are not restricted from these grants. The funds are first-come, first serve, so apply ASAP!



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Great Lakes Regional Master Logger Certification Program Transition July 2020 By Warren Suchovsky

The Master Logger Certification (MLC) program in Michigan is alive and well! We have grown from humble beginnings 15 years ago when a small number of a loosely organized sustainable forestry group of Michigan loggers said let us develop a Master Logger program for our state.

In 2001 the American Loggers Council (ALC), of which the Michigan Association of Timbermen (MAT) is a member, developed “Seven Areas of Responsibility” and a template. It should be noted that these seven areas closely resemble the areas recognized by SFI and FSC certification programs. This was the beginning of a nationally recognized Master Logger Certification program. In 2004 ALC approved the MAT MI template. In 2005 the first four MI Michigan Master Loggers were certified. Today there are about 80 certified Master Loggers in MI. From what was originally a program whose membership was mainly in the western Upper Peninsula, today over half the membership is in the Lower Peninsula. Currently we have about 10 more applications for certification. This past year in addition to certifying a few more new applicants we completed re-certification audits on about one third of the ML companies. All of these came through with flying colors!

In the beginning MAT asked Don Peterson’s Sustainable Resources Institute, Inc.” to administer our program. We owe much thanks to Don and his staff for helping to steer us along our way. We also need to give recognition and thanks to the MI Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementing Committee (SFI-SIC) and some of its member mills for significant financial support over the years.

Where do we go from here? Don has decided that he wants to move on to other things and has asked MAT to take over the administration of its ML program. At the June 5, 2020 MAT Board of Directors meeting it was agreed that MAT through its “Michigan Institute for Timber Resource and Educational Excellence, Inc.” (MI TREE) 501 C-3 subsidiary will take over the administration of the Great Lakes Regional MI Master Logger Program. Warren Suchovsky will be the acting administrator, on a gratis basis for the first year. Michelle Sears, MAT’s Administrator, will provide clerical assistance. We expect that the transition from Don’s SRI to MAT will be completed by the end of July 2020. MAT has never provided financial support to the program. Going forward the ML program will need to secure its own financial support. Much of the expense incurred by the program is for mileage and compensation of the auditors who conduct the field audits. The independent Certifying Board members are not compensated.

Plans were being made to hold 2-4 regional ML meetings this past break-up season. COVID-19 put the brakes on this. Perhaps we will be able to get some meetings set up later this year. We need your input. The Master Logger Program is for loggers by loggers.

Contact Information

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MAT LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The past few months have certainly been unlike any other for the Michigan Legislature. The House of Representatives and Senate has spent most of its time working on COVID-19 related issues and trying to balance the rest of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 budget.

In July, the legislature finalized the FY 19-20 budget with a combination of federal dollars, \$350 million from the states “Rainy Day Fund” and nearly \$500 million in cuts with the School Aid Fund (SAF) and health plans across the state being hardest hit.

The legislature did get some good news in late August. The budget deficit for FY 2020-21 is expected to be much less than originally anticipated, although still almost a billion dollars.

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Deficit not as Large as Originally Anticipated

In late August, the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC) met to provide an update on the budget outlook for FY 2020-21 and the news was better, but not great.

Predictions from the spring were that Michigan would be faced with a \$3.1 billion deficit next year. That number now has dropped to below \$1 billion thanks in part to strong sales tax revenue. While the hole is less than originally thought, \$1 billion is \$1 billion and a lot of hard decisions will have to be made.

Legislative leaders cautioned that there is a large structural deficit in the state budget and that the next budget will likely be painful. The State Business Office (SBO) pointed to the potential for larger deficits for several years down the road and called on assistance from the federal government.

The participants in the CREC is made up of economists from the House and Senate Fiscal agencies and the SBO.

House Bill 5333 Slowed, MAT Remains Optimistic

MAT legislation to protect the Forest Development Fund that was introduced by Rep. Greg Markkanen and Rep. Sara Cambensy and passed the House of Representatives has been slowed down this summer due to prioritizing the COVID-19 pandemic and budget deficit that accompanied it.

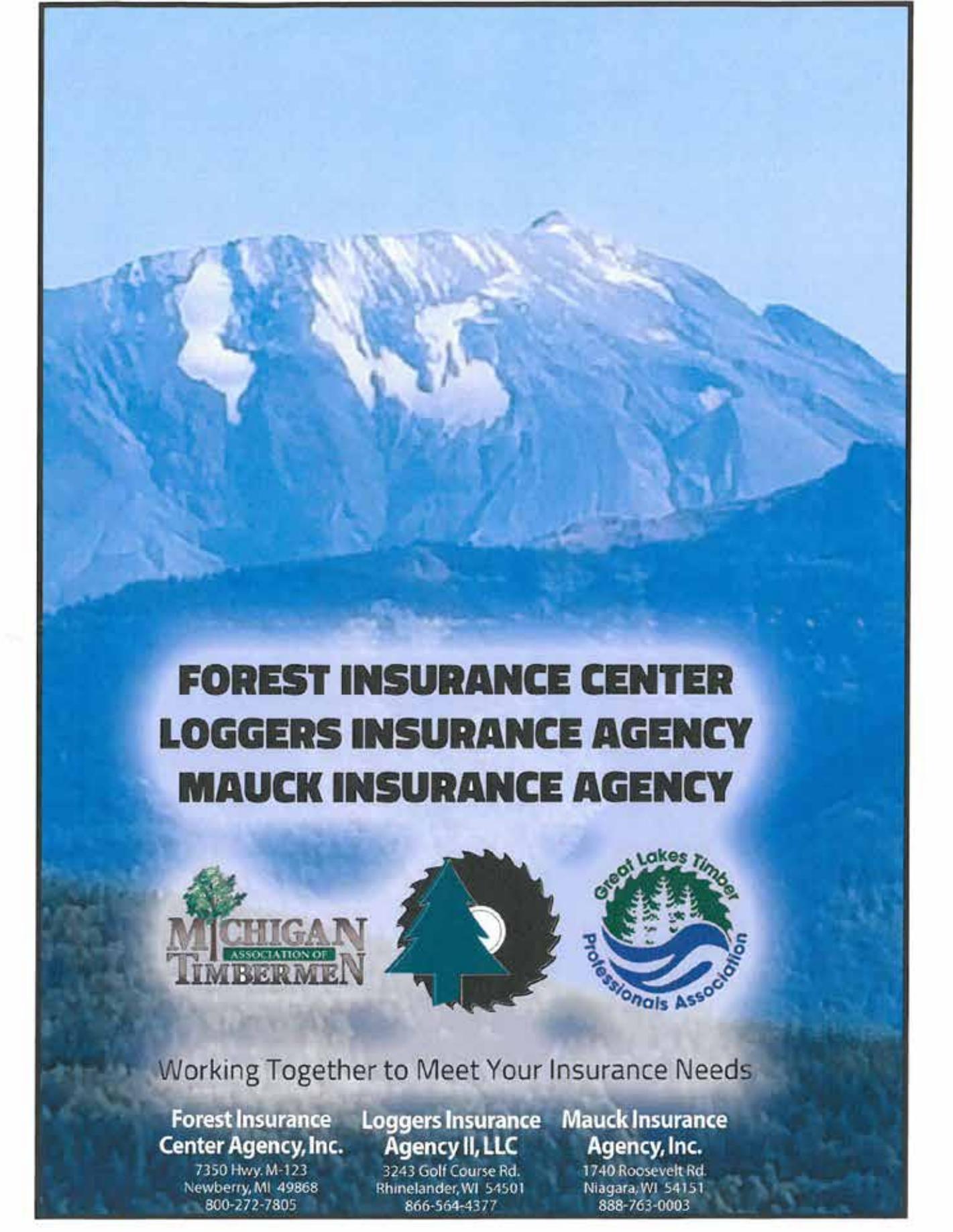
The legislation had been sailing through the process without a single no vote and was placed in the Senate Appropriations Committee in April. MAT had been hopeful that the legislation would be through the legislature and on the Governor’s desk by this summer.

MAT lobbyists have continued to meet with the Senate Appropriations Chairman, Sen. Jim Stamas, and we remain optimistic that the bill will be signed into law prior to the end of this legislative session in December.



BY JASON WADAGA
MAT Lobbyist

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LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT



REP. GREG MARKKANEN

State Rep. Gregory Markkanen was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2018. He represents the 110th District, which includes Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties, as well as Powell and Ishpeming townships in Marquette County.

Markkanen serves as vice chairman of the Insurance committee. He also serves on the Military, Veterans & Homeland security committee, Energy committee and the Education committee.

Greg graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in history and political science. Greg also graduated from Michigan Technological University Cum Laude with a social sciences and biology degree. He also has graduate work in special education with a focus on Learning Disabilities in K-12. He holds a Professional Teaching Certificate from the State of Michigan.

Greg served as a medical Corpsman with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Airborne Infantry Platoon and spent additional time as a Medic with the 107th Engineer Battalion of the Michigan Army National Guard. He teaches high school civics, history and geography for Baraga Area Schools and served on the Hancock City Council as the Ward II representative.

Public Office and Affiliations

Markkanen has worked with the Hanka Homestead Board of Directors and as a volunteer tour guide, as well as with the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council. Greg has also served the Copper Country Americorp Program with the BHK Child Development Center. He is also a board member with the Michigan Center for Civic Education. Greg is also an Endowed Life Member of the National Rifle Association.

Personal

He is married to his lovely wife, Jane with two children, Kalle and Maija. They reside in Hancock.



I have worked in the timber industry, on the ground running a chainsaw and skidder. I know how important it is to support the logging industry in the U.P. It is an essential industry to help manage our forest and produce the products we use every day.”

What's your number one legislative priority?

It's difficult to focus on just one. As a former teacher, education is important across our district and across our State, supporting all aspects of Education is a top priority.

What's the best part of your job?

Serving our constituents with my outstanding and hardworking staff, it's an honor to assist the people of this district. If we don't know the answer, we will find make sure to find the answer.

What's the biggest hidden gem in your district?

We have Lake Superior, National parks, museums but it's really the people throughout all the communities that make the district what it is.

Who's your modern-day hero?

The men and women who serve in our armed services, we cannot do enough for them.

For this edition of Timbertalk, we get to know the two Yoopers who are leading the way in Lansing to protect the Forest Development Fund, Rep. Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock) and Rep. Sara Cambensy (D-Marquette)



REP. SARA CAMBENSY

State Rep. Sara Cambensy is serving her second full term representing the 109th House District, which comprises Alger, Luce and Schoolcraft counties and part of Marquette County. Rep. Cambensy previously served on the Agriculture, Local Government, and Natural Resources Committees.

Before serving in the Legislature, Rep. Cambensy worked for Marquette Public Schools as the Director of Adult Education, in addition to serving as a Marquette city commissioner from 2012 to 2017.

Rep. Cambensy graduated with a Bachelor's in Education and a Master's in Public Administration from Northern Michigan University where she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award for the MPA Program. She has also been working toward a Ph.D. in environmental and energy policy, focusing on water quality and energy reliability issues for the Great Lakes region.

What's your number one legislative priority?

To make sure our mining and logging economy in the U.P. stays strong. This means bridging the gap between environmentalists and those doing the labor to supply us products made from our natural resources. Our modern lifestyles have allowed people to get comfortable with their cell phones, cars, and even a wide variety of toilet paper products without having to think about where they come from.

Being a Democrat from the rural U.P., I feel it's my role to help members in my party understand that it's not an either/or answer. We can protect the environment and have good paying, sustainable jobs using our natural resources responsibly. Those in our mining and logging industries do a great job of proving this every day.

What's the best part of your job?

Getting to know and gain the respect of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in Lansing. By keeping an open mind and being willing to listen to other points of view outside of my party, I'm able to work more independently and be supportive of common-sense solutions- not the usual partisan politics. It works out well for my district and the U.P. because by earning the respect of my colleagues, they are more willing to work with me and help me out when I need support on a bill or issue unique to the U.P.

What's the biggest hidden gem in your district?

The people. By choosing to live and make a living in the U.P., Yoopers are a rare group of people that still have some of the most admirable character traits that other areas of our state and nation have lost. We're hard workers, resilient, adaptable to change and community oriented. If there's a need, no matter how independent we are as individuals, we will all rally around those who need help the most. No question about it, Yoopers can come together and unite on issues that many other places could never do.

Who's your modern-day hero?

My dad. He wasn't thrilled when I told him I was running for a state house seat, but the advice he's given me from that decision has been the most impactful on me. He told me if I wanted to run for office, that I better remember that I work for the people who voted me in and not my own interests or special interests. That the people of the state of Michigan are my boss. Period. I've never forgotten that. That conversation that day keeps me grounded and humble, and I'm able to sleep at night knowing my voting record reflects what my constituents want- not what one party or another expects me to do.

A FOREST PLAN... WHAT?

By Bill Cook

Plans help inform forestowners so that they might make better choices about their property. Plans provide a roadmap and activities schedule (including waiting) that reflect forestowner objectives.

There are nearly 200,000 Michigan family forest ownerships of at least ten acres in size. This complex ownership block sums to around 8.5 million acres, the largest ownership group for the 20.1 million acres of Michigan forestland. The vast majority of these holdings lie north of a line running east-west through Saginaw.

These lands provide timber, water quality, habitat, recreation, and other goods and services for the forestowner, the public, and the environment. They are critically important natural resources.

Management plans are not required in Michigan, but they seem like a pretty good idea if one adheres to the notion that the future should be built, rather than simply waiting to see what might happen. In forestry, as in other endeavors, doing nothing will most likely lead to a place where most forestowners don't want to be.

Yet, less than 20% of this family-owned acreage has a management plan, with even fewer acres where a plan has been implemented.

What goes into a forest management plan? It's not rocket science. The DNR has a nice one-page summary of items. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has another checklist on their Qualified Forest Property webpage. There are other checklists, too.

Much of the plan direction is up to the forestowner. A professional forester can provide valuable insights and services, helping to match land capabilities with a forestowner vision. A forester can assemble knowledge about many natural resources to help move a forestowner forward.

A complete plan, some of which may not be of particular interest to some forestowners, will pave the way into cost-share programs from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), either of Michigan's forest property tax programs, the Qualified Forest Program and the Commercial Forest Program, and eligibility for the Tree Farm Program.

Some of the plan elements are obvious, such as names, addresses, contacts, legal descriptions, a map or two, dates, and a description of the property. The owners should frame management goals and desired future conditions with a forester. The forester can inventory the forest to yield important characteristics, upon which decisions can be better made.

“ Forest management plans sound like a good idea. They're a gateway into a range of cost-share, assistance, and property tax programs. Yet, few forestowners have formal, written forest management plans.” – Bill Cook

A FOREST PLAN... WHAT? CONT'D

Soil properties and habitat conditions should be spelled-out, including such things as possible endangered and threatened species, as well as exotic invasive species. An archeological and historic review might be good practice for many woodlands.

A timber management schedule is a requirement for both the property tax programs. It's also a pretty good way to assess what sort of revenue might be expected during the life of a management plan. Other desired management practices should also be included in the schedule of activities, such as pond-building or habitat changes.

The costs of obtaining a plan can be partially paid through the DNR Forest Stewardship Program or through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program. Michigan is served by many good consulting foresters.

Most of Michigan's heavily forested counties have foresters available through the Conservation Districts and the Forestry Assistance Program (DARD). These foresters can provide a free on-site visit and help guide forestowners to appropriate resources and programs.

Many of these programs have deadlines. A forestowner needs to plan ahead to give a consulting forester enough time to schedule and prepare a management plan, and an agency to process an application. Cost-share programs require an approved plan as part of their application process. These programs can sometimes be confusing, which is another reason to work with a forester.

Forest management planning represents a commitment to the future of the forest, the family, and all those numerous linkages to a forest. 



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Update – Logger Relief Funds

As of this writing, August 3, 2020, Congress has yet to approve the next stimulus package to provide financial assistance to businesses during these unprecedented financial times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the American Loggers Council are pushing hard to seek a relief package that would help logging and log trucking businesses to cope with loss of markets, quotas and other Coronavirus related issues that are dragging down their businesses.

What began as a request for a low interest loan to assist logging and log trucking businesses during these hard times has morphed into a bill, the Logger Relief Fund, House Resolution 7690 and Senate Bill 4233 that would allow logging and log trucking businesses to compare revenues for the first 7 months of 2010 to those of 2019. If revenues are down by more than 10% in 2020 as compared to 2019, then a logging or log trucking business would be eligible to apply for funds not exceeding more than 10% of the gross business revenues for the period between January 1, 2019 and July 31, 2019. These funds are not intended to make businesses whole, but rather to allow them the opportunity to reorganize as markets around them continue to recover.

The American Loggers Council has secured support from both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate and are looking to try and push this legislation in the next COVID-19 or CARES-2 Act as soon as this week. Other trade associations are lending their support in these final days of negotiations between the House and the Senate, but **we still need as many of you to e-mail, or call your House and Senate members offices and request that they cosponsor the legislation, this week!** You can go online at www.congress.gov and track both of the bills and also see a list of the cosponsors that have already signed on. If you do not see your Congressman or Congresswoman on the list of cosponsors under H.R. 7690, or your Senators on the list of cosponsors under S. 4233, then you should reach out to their staff immediately and request that they sign on.

Quoting a message recently sent to this office from a former staff member, “The art of the blow-off is highly refined on Capitol Hill.” Do not allow them to simply send you a form letter that has been disguised with a blue ink signature that vaguely mentions your request for them to sign on to the legislation. Let them know that you are one of the folks back home that votes for them and that you are requesting that they represent you as one of their constituents. Be original and be firm.

To quote another mentor in the logging profession and long-time advocate for our industry, Bruce Vincent, “The world is run by those who show up.” Have you shown up yet? Have you taken the time to respond to action alert requests that have gone out over social media sites and web sites? If not, and you wish to see the relief fund move forward, you must do so now.

Thanks to all of you who have already made your voices heard, and thanks in advance to those who will reach out this week to help push this legislation across the finish line.

The American Loggers Council is an 501(c)(6) not for profit trade association representing professional timber harvesters throughout the United States. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council at 409-625-0206, or americanlogger@aol.com, or visit our website at www.amloggers.com

TEAM SAFE TRUCKING PROVIDING SAFETY TRAINING TO MICHIGAN'S FOREST PRODUCTS BUSINESSES – FOR FREE!

Nation-wide the forestry industry continues to experience crashes related to the transport of materials and products. Whether or not the fault of the Log truck driver or not, there can be major financial loss, personal injuries and a negative public perception of the forest products industry due to these crashes. Load center of gravity, secondary road conditions and distracted truck driver are some of the major contributing factors when crashes occur.

TEAM Safe Trucking (TST) is a national cooperative effort to create an awareness, educational and training program that is now available nation-wide to all who have forest products hauling operations or risk exposure to such operations.



TEAM Safe Trucking was formed by and consists of representatives from logging companies, wood products consumers/manufacturers, insurance companies, logging associations, forestry associations, education institutions, media companies, and other concerned individuals. This is an unprecedented effort to address transportation issues related to the forest products industry.

TEAM Safe Trucking Mission Statement:

To reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.

Great News for the Great Lakes Region

Since the very beginning Forest Insurance Center/Loggers Insurance Agency/Mauck Insurance Agency has provided moral and financial support to TEAM Safe Trucking. Now, through that continued financial support, truck driver safety training and FMCSA compliance assistance is available upon request in the Great Lakes Region. Driver safety training is rapidly becoming more of a requirement by FMCSA than a suggestion. TEAM Safe Trucking driver safety training modules provides convenient driver safety training that can be easily accessed on a laptop, iPad and even your cell phone. These modules have been developed with information provided by those who own and drive trucks that haul forest products.

Let me say this loud and clear!

There are many well-run wood hauling operations that do a great job representing the forest industry across the US and they should be commended. Unfortunately, they are having to suffer the consequences brought on by those “in the boat” with them that are not doing things the right way. Before the wood supply chain can return to a sustainable and profitable process, the changes noted here must begin immediately. Remember, our families and friends are traveling the highways with these log trucks that provide a living for most of us. We should all want trained professional safe drivers driving them.

Thank you in advance for becoming part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Jimmie Locklear
Risk Control Services

Forest Insurance Center Agency, Inc. Cell – 906-291-0011 jimmie@forestinsurancecenter.com

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT



BY DALE KLEFFMAN
CPCU, CIC

It's hard to watch the hours and days go by without finding something infuriating on the television or internet. We watch destruction and protests that may have started as a worthy cause escalate into the us vs them mentality that seeks to divide us all. Today's political and to an extent social climate continually asks all of us to take sides, the middle ground is largely evaporated. Unfortunately, it seems like finding some common ground and compromise are largely out the window for various aspects of society. People aren't allowed to think independently. If you disagree with someone instead of being respectful and agreeing to disagree while working toward a solution you are now mortal enemies. The money side of politics and government is plain ugly and there is no improvement on the horizon.

I have no doubt that the founders of this great country never imagined a federal government so large. The larger something like this is the more waste, less oversight, and less accountability there is. This is a topic on its own but I bring it up because the more we can govern ourselves and deal with issues at smaller and more local levels the more success we

will have in solving problems. This country is so diverse in what different areas have to offer – rural vs urban, forested vs prairie, coastline vs desert, and warm climates vs colder highlight some of the physical differences. As our regions differ in what makes them up our economies and social expectations also vary. Some people who live in urban areas may never understand why some of us choose to live in rural areas. These same people (and policy makers) may never understand how decisions and rules made impact those in rural areas. These material, cultural, and economic differences farther resonate more power (and money) in governance at local levels. The often one-size-fits-all nature of federal policy and government simply makes it less effective.

I bring these issues up to discuss the single thing that frustrates me more than anything—accountability. It is so easy and common in today's age to shift the blame and find a scapegoat. We see this starting with our children. There are many parents who instead of having a firm conversation with their kids regarding attitude, grades, or other things will quickly find fault in a coach, referee, classmate, or teacher. These same kids that are protected by mom and dad grow up pointing the finger at others and continually fail to realize that they themselves may be the biggest part of the problems that arise in their lives. I'm sure parents mean well and want the best for their kids but by failing to make sure they are accountable for their own actions they are enabling them to continue poor habits. These same trends continue now through adulthood. If one doesn't get a job, raise, find success or something that makes them happy many will lambaste others and never stop to think about what they could do better or how to improve their own situation. It seems to always be someone or another group of people's fault, never the party that is offended.

This country was founded on opportunity and a guarantee to pursue life, liberty and happiness. Nothing I have ever read guarantees any individual experiencing these things; how one can attain them is immensely variable from person to person. What is guaranteed is the opportunity pursue these things. We continue to have this shift in ideology among some that government exists to provide what is needed for a happy life. This is a very slippery slope that leads into the wallows of mediocrity and eventual failure when people no longer look to themselves and their own ability and work ethic to provide for their own happiness and sustenance. While the world has changed immensely from the late 1700's these founding principles make more sense today than ever. There is no long term benefit in having a segment that is now approaching the majority of our country's population into being dependent on government.

There has never been more opportunity in the world than there is today. Employers are hungry for talent—most of the time they are even willing to do the training as long as the worker has drive, energy, honesty, and effort towards the task. I speak to thousands of business owners in a year's time—far and away across all industries the number one concern is labor. Everyone has to start somewhere and with the right attitude and work ethic moving up the world can happen faster than ever before. Making it easier to stay home and not work discourages people from taking care of themselves, farther encourages the entitlement mentality, and will eventually lead to the demise of all of us. These issues relating to individual accountability are some of the main fuel that is stoking the fire of many issues facing society today. There is opportunity everywhere. Look in the mirror, work to make yourself better, and have the attitude that you are responsible for yourself and your own success and happiness, not anyone else. 🌲

Dale Kleffman is a licensed insurance agent working for Mauck/Loggers Insurance Agencies with an extensive background in commercial insurance relating to all aspects of the forest products industry including logging, trucking, and manufacturing. Mauck/Loggers Insurance Agencies are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association and Michigan Association of Timbermen through their respective holding companies. Dale can be reached at 906-281-1604 or dalek@mauckinsurance.com



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MAT LEGISLATIVE NEWS cont'd

Legislation to Promote Mass Timber Use on State Projects Remains Stalled

Legislation to require the State of Michigan to use mass timber in the design and construction of a building or facility owned or operated by the state remains stalled in the Michigan House of Representatives.

House Bill 5009 was introduced Rep. John Cherry from Flint and was aimed to help promote the harvesting of timber across Michigan. While legislation of this type is often viewed by the Department of Management and Budget (DTMB) as “tying the hands” of state purchasing, the legislation requires that “all other things be equal” in determining whether or not to use mass timber.

The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism last fall. 🌲



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