

Improvements to the State's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA)

PFPA supports changes to the state's Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) that expand protections for landowners and ensures that legal fees are covered for property owners who are found not liable for injuries to recreational users.

Status: HB544 was approved by the state House earlier this year and is currently before the state Senate. The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams).

Talking Points:

- ✿ The bill addresses modern conditions that have evolved since the legislation's initial enactment in the 1960's, including the greatly expanded ownership of off-road motorized vehicles, the growth of recreation-related associations and a more litigious society.
- ✿ We believe that the bill would result in more private acreage becoming open to public recreation opportunities, benefiting both enthusiasts and landowners.
- ✿ We also believe the bill may reduce the incidence of trespassing by recreational participants, such as off-road motorized enthusiasts.

Pennsylvania Hardwoods: Leading the Nation

- #1 in hardwood growing stock
- #1 in production of hardwood lumber
- #1 in hardwood lumber & wood product exports

Pennsylvania's Forest Products Industry

Employment:

About 60,000 Pennsylvanians
Over 10% of the PA's mfg. workforce

Businesses:

Over 2,100 Establishments

Output (sales):

\$11.5 billion annually

Total Economic Impact:

\$19 billion annually

Pennsylvania's Sustainable Forest Resource

Nearly 17 million acres – almost 60% of PA's land area

More forests in PA now than 100 years ago

Forests in PA are growing at more than twice the rate that they are being harvested

Trees are a renewable resource that is naturally beautiful, carbon neutral and easily recyclable - hardwood trees in Pennsylvania regenerate naturally, meaning that replanting is usually not necessary

Pennsylvania Forest Products Association

2018 Legislative Event

Monday, April 16, 2018
Harrisburg Hilton & Towers
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



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Funding for Hardwood Initiatives

PFPA supports funding for the Department of Agriculture's *Hardwood Research & Promotion* line item in the 2018-19 state Budget at \$424,000.

Status: This line was eliminated in Governor Wolf's 2018-19 state Budget proposal. In the 2017-2018 state Budget, this line was funded at \$424,000.

Talking Points:

- ✿ Although the economy continues to improve, promotion, research and technical assistance remains essential to help with the continued recovery of the state's forest products industry and the 20,000 jobs lost during the last recession.
- ✿ Continued promotion of Pennsylvania forest products as a green building material;
- ✿ Expand safety and other training to encourage insurance companies to lower worker's compensation rates for forest industry workers, or find workable models that could be used in Pennsylvania;
- ✿ Continue to develop and expand international and domestic hardwood markets through targeted promotional strategies;
- ✿ Continue support for the Hardwood Utilization Groups as part of the HDC funding (80% of funding of HDC funding).

Address Workers Comp Issues

Expand safety and other training to encourage insurance companies to lower worker's compensation rates for forest industry workers, or find other workable models that could be used in PA.

Status:

- ✿ PFPA is seeking to conduct a comprehensive review with state agencies to explore implementation of a private-public partnership to address the industry's concerns with the high workers compensation rates Pennsylvania loggers continue to pay.

Talking Points:

- ✿ High Workers Compensation rates discourage forest industry workers from purchasing necessary and adequate coverage.

Avoid Additional Taxation on Timber or Natural Gas

PFPA opposes the Governor's proposal for a new \$250 million tax on natural gas extraction.

Status: Governor Wolf included this tax in his proposed 2018-19 state Budget.

Talking Points:

- ✿ An extraction tax on gas opens the possibility of a tax on timber as well.

Seek Extension of the Act 89-2013 Letters of Local Determination

PFPA supports extension of the Act 89-2013 Letters of Local Determination transportation provisions which are set to expire at the end of 2018.

Status: PFPA is currently working with both the House and Senate Transportation Committees to ensure that Act 89-2013 is extended or reauthorized.

Talking Points:

- ✿ Reasonable road posting and bonding on the state and local level are still needed to ensure the continued recovery of the forest products industry after the last recession.
- ✿ The forest products industry is still an "at risk" industry and as such needs to be exempted from bonding and excess maintenance requirements of Chapter 189 on routes bonded by the Marcellus industry.
- ✿ PFPA also seeks to continue the protection of Letters of Local Determination for de minimis hauling on certain posted state routes.