

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 last week. The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Dan Moul (R-Adams).

Talking Points:

- ✿ The bills address modern conditions that have evolved since the legislation's initial enactment in 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 bills would result in more private acreage becoming open to public recreation opportunities, benefiting both enthusiasts and landowners.
- ✿ We also believe the bills will 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

2017 Legislative Event

Tuesday, April 18, 2017
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 2017-18 state Budget at \$400,000.

Status: This line was eliminated in Governor Wolf's 2017-18 state Budget proposal. In the 2016-2017, State Budget, which Governor Wolf allowed to pass into law without his signature, this line was funded at \$385,000.

Talking Points:

- ✿ Promotion, research and technical assistance is 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 support for the hardwood research and promotion line item will:
- ✿ Allow for 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;

- ✿ Develop and support strategies to better address wood industry training & workforce development needs as identified by the HDC;
 - ✿ Continue support for the Hardwood Utilization Groups as part of the HDC funding (80% of HDC funding).
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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.

Talking Points:

- ✿ Broaden recruitment efforts to attract students already interested in technology, machinery, other in-demand occupations and forestry careers.
- ✿ Develop more formal and informal pipelines between industry and schools through internship, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships.
- ✿ Conduct a comprehensive study to quantify and document the values of Pennsylvania forests.