

RESOLUTION #5

Protect Wisconsin's Forest Heritage by Preserving the Forestry Mill Tax

Whereas, the DNR Forestry Program is nationally renowned for service to woodland owners and wise stewardship of Wisconsin's \$29 billion forest products industry; and,

Whereas, in 1924, Wisconsin established the Forestry Mill Tax to fund the Forestry Program to ensure the recovery and maintenance of a critical renewable natural resource; and,

Whereas, the Governor's Budget calls for the conversion of the Mill Tax for the Forestry Program to General Purpose Revenues which are often moved to cover short-term budgetary emergencies, thus jeopardizing the stability of program funding; and,

Whereas, the program provides critical information to woodland owners on technical forestry concerns like insect and disease issues, invasive species prevention, tree planting and harvesting advice, questions about the Managed Forest Law Program, and assistance to apply for a Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant; and

Whereas, critical fire control services are provided by the DNR Forestry Program which cannot be consistently provided by local volunteer fire departments;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association encourages the Governor and members of the Joint Committee on Finance to retain the Mill Tax for the DNR Forestry Program, to ensure woodland owners the services they need to manage the forest resource and sustain it for future generations.

Adopted this date March 17, 2017

Board of Directors - Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association