



## *House of Representatives*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman  
House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee

**DATE:** April 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Introduction of Resolution Re-establishing Forestry Task Force

I have prepared and will soon be introducing a concurrent resolution to re-establish the bipartisan, bicameral Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee for 2011. The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee would provide the necessary staffing and administration for the task force and the advisory committee.

The first Forestry Task Force was established by resolution in 1994 and has been re-established in every legislative session since then. The task force studies issues regarding sustainable forestry and management strategies for Pennsylvania's forest resources in order to provide guidance to the Pennsylvania General Assembly to improve the health, quality and diversity of the 17 million acres of forest land in our state.

Specifically, this session's task force would conduct a through study and investigation of five timely and important issues:

- 1) Examination of the impact of cash flow and working capital shortages on forest products companies and future forestry activities.
- 2) Assessment of the negative impacts of Marcellus-related road postings (both state and local) on forest products companies.
- 3) Examination of the policies/training of individuals in gas-related land clearing on DCNR lands, with a focus on the benefits of these individuals being held to the standard required for loggers training mandate.
- 4) Examination of the impacts of declining state support for forestry and forest products related research.
- 5) Review of current impacts and an assessment of future impacts of invasive forest pests on Pennsylvania forests.

The task force would be composed of two members of the House and two members of the Senate as selected by the Speaker of the House, President pro tempore of the Senate and each body's minority leader. The task force would hold such meetings as are necessary and prepare a report as soon as possible for the General Assembly.

The advisory committee would be composed representatives of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry, the Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council, the PA Game Commission, Penn State University's School of Forest Resources and Cooperative Extension Service,

and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, the committee shall include representatives from business organizations in the forest products industry, representatives from non-profit conservation organizations and other members deemed appropriate by the task force.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this resolution, please call Jessica at 717-783-8188 or e-mail her at [jguyer@pahousegop.com](mailto:jguyer@pahousegop.com) as soon as possible.