



**Florence Sustainable Forestry
Conference
Wednesday, April 19, 2023**



On a National Level, GLTPA coordinates with:

- **American Loggers Council (ALC)**
- **Forest Resource Association (FRA)**
- **Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC)**
- **Federal Timber Purchasers (FTP)**
- **Lake States Federal Timber Purchasers (LSFTP)**
- **Team Safe Trucking (TST)**
- **Evergreen Forest County Group**

UNITED STATES CAPITOL

WASHINGTON DC

DATE

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

MOBILE 911 COALITION

**“81% OF RURAL
AREAS LACK
CELLULAR SIGNAL
OR HAVE NO
SIGNAL AT ALL”**

Dear Senators Stabenow and Peters:

I write to ask your urgent leadership to fund investment in rural cellular networks. This funding is vital to solving a very serious and growing public safety problem for 2 million rural Michiganders and the 122 million people who visit and travel through our state that lack the ability to reliably connect to mobile networks in emergencies and for other purposes.

While cities race toward 5G, rural consumers across America suffer worsening mobile connectivity. Recent data from the National Association of Counties shows **81% of rural areas lack cellular signal or have no signal at all**. The collapse of cellular coverage began in 2008 when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) cut vital subsidies needed to offset the untenable expense of maintaining an essential service in areas uneconomic to serve.

The FCC’s actions led to the collapse of 90% of America’s rural-based mobile service providers—thus far, Michigan has lost ten local providers, among the most of any state in the country—and the loss of billions of dollars of Universal Service investment in these networks. The loss of these providers has drastically shrunk mobile coverage and wiped out America’s promise of universal *mobile* connectivity for 46 million rural Americans.

Despite growing “dead zones” and dropped calls throughout the country, many rural consumers only have access to the telecommunications network through their mobile phone. Pew Charitable Trust recently confirmed that 58% of all Americans now use their mobile phones *exclusively* to go online for telehealth, schooling, work and play. More importantly, **90% of all 911-emergencies calls are made from mobile phones. Investment in rural mobile connectivity is desperately needed to save lives and mitigate emergencies.**

Therefore, as you consider priorities for the FY 2023 Appropriations bill, it is my hope you will provide much needed investment to support the operation of mobile networks in rural areas of the country. Doing so will immediately strengthen Michigan’s communications safety-net and deliver the economic, health, educational and social benefits derived from an ever increasing mobile world to rural Michiganders.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

H.R. 8116

MODERN, CLEAN, AND SAFE TRUCKS ACT of 2022

Repeals the 12% Federal Excise Tax on Heavy Trucks which was first enacted in 1917

H.R. 2727

FUTURE LOGGING CAREERS ACT

RESOLUTION Proclaiming October 12th “National Loggers Day”

**Common Sense
Is not so common.
Continuous
education is
mandatory for the
forest industry.**

**THANK GOD WE'RE PROTECTING
THE OWLS BY NOT LOGGING**

**BECAUSE THIS IS SO
MUCH BETTER FOR OUR WILDLIFE.**



CB

USFS and Department of Interior

Will be issuing a joint statement on Old Growth and Mature Forests on National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Lands

GOOD NEIGHBOR PLAN

Designed to limit ozone season emissions of nitrogen oxides from going across state lines.

Safe Routes Act of 2023 Introduced

April 11, 2023





State Organizations GLTPA Engaged with:

- **County Road Association of MI (CRA)**
- **Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance (UPSA)**
- **MI Farm Bureau (MFB)**
- **MI Dept of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB)**
- **Easter Upper Peninsula Transit Authority (EUPTA)**
- **MI Townships Association (MTA)**
- **MI Association of Timbermen (MAT)**
- **MI Forest Products Council (MFPC)**
- **MI Assoc. of Timbermen Self Insured Fund (MATSIF)**
- **MI Operating Engineers (MOE)**
- **Sustainable Resource Institute (SRI)**
- **UP Fair/Delta Chamber**



MICHIGAN

Great lakes Timber Professionals Association is pleased to provide this letter in support of DNR's Forest Resources Division Budget request for the following expenditures.

Emergency Response and Fire Management: \$3.7 million ongoing General Fund investment to add and equip wildland fire staff to better support wildfire prevention and suppression efforts and facilitate expanded participation in emergency management responses. This expenditure would increase the Divisions wildland fire fighting capacity by adding funding to hire additional staff and support equipment to help combat wildland fires. It is our understanding the division has seen a significant drop in firefighting personnel from 2015 to 2022, going from 491 to 226. The primary reason for this drop is associated with volunteers who have met the physical testing requirements for firing fighting but are no longer wishing to provide their services. There are also situations when volunteers are not available at the time of need which places the Division in a short-handed situation. For the safety of Michigan's residents and protection of its forests against fire GLTPA supports funding for this item.

Forest Land Management Equipment: \$2.5 million one-time investment from available restricted funds to address the need for several larger pieces of forest land management equipment for managing state forest lands and performing critical forest management work within the state's national forests through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Forest Service. As we all know, equipment becomes worn out and outdated even when the best maintenance plans are used. This provision will allow the Department to update mid 1980's equipment with modern, environmentally efficient power units and add to its cultivation fleet for reforestation and fire protection. To ensure continued reforestation GLTPA supports funding this item.



**GLTPA SUPPORTS WAIVING ROYALTIES FOR SAND
AND GRAVEL FROM STATE OWNED PROPERTIES FOR
LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT**

Wisconsin & Michigan 30 Mile IFTA Reciprocity Agreement for Raw Forest Products

**MICHIGAN IS
NOW ABLE TO
ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT
WITH ALL
BOARDING
STATES**

Dear Motor Carriers,

Effective November 15, 2022, a change has been made to the reciprocity agreement between Wisconsin (WI) and Michigan (MI) to include International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) reciprocity for haulers of raw forest products, who travel 30 air miles into MI.

“Raw forest products” mean logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood, and Christmas trees, that are not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken and are not finished products suitable for sale at retail.

Due to this change, any motor carrier who operates no further than 30 air miles across the border of WI and MI, and hauls only raw forest products, would not be required to obtain an IFTA license.

If this change affects your operations, to cancel your IFTA accounts, a 4th Quarter IFTA Tax Return will need to be filed by January 31, 2023. Carriers should not renew IFTA for 2023.

For questions regarding this change, please contact the Motor Carrier Registration Unit at (608) 266-9900 or irp-ifta@dot.wi.gov.

Thank you,

WisDOT
Motor Carrier Registration Unit



State Organizations GLTPA Engaged with:

- **Federal Sustainable Forestry Committee (FSFC)**
- **Trees for Tomorrow (TFT)**
- **WI Council on Forestry (COF)**
- **WI County Forest Association (WCFA)**
- **WI Towns Association (WTA)**
- **WI Oversize/Overweight Committee (OSOW)**
- **WI Freight Advisory Committee (WFAC)**
- **WI Transportation Stakeholders Taskforce (WTST)**
- **Local Road Improvement Discretionary Fund (LRIP)**
- **Multimodal Local Supplement Committee**
- **WI Wood Marketing Team (WWMT)**
- **WI Paper Council (WPC)**
- **Wood Industry Collaborative**



WISCONSIN

LRB-2553/1 and LRB 2631/1: Agriculture Road Improvement Program

Sponsored by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation to address rural road infrastructure issues with one-time grant funding and no matching funds.

It is not clear if forestry is included or not at this point. GLTPA is working to include forestry in the funding.

FEDERAL CARGO LOAD SECUREMENT EXEMPTION FOR CRIB STYLE TRUCKS and TRAILERS and SEMI-TRAILERS.

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Robin Hutcheson
Administrator
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 10590

**Re: Request for exemption from 49 C.F.R. § 393.116,
What are the Rules for Securing Logs?**



**INCREASED BIOMASS
LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**





PURPOSE

- **“FOR, IN THE END, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A GREAT LIFE UNLESS IT IS A MEANINGFUL LIFE. AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL LIFE WITHOUT MEANINGFUL WORK.**
- **PERHAPS, THEN, YOU MIGHT GAIN THAT RARE TRANQUILITY THAT COMES FROM KNOWING THAT YOU’VE HAD A HAND IN CREATING SOMETHING OF INTRINSIC EXCELLENCE THAT MAKES A CONTRIBUTION. INDEED, YOU MIGHT EVEN GAIN THAT DEEPEST OF ALL SATISFACTIONS KNOWING THAT YOUR SHORT TIME HERE ON THIS EARTH HAS BEEN WELL SPENT AND THAT IT MATTERED.”**
- ***JIM COLLINS, GOOD TO GREAT***

you never
know
what you have
until it's gone

