
SUPPORTING FORESTER LICENSING

- The Forestry Task Force should recognize that there is a proliferation of local harvesting ordinances which represent real concerns, and a search for integrity, on the part of citizens of the Commonwealth, in the harvesting of private forests;
- The health, safety and welfare of the general public is not adequately served if the forest is not sustained;
- Availability and delivery of competent professional forestry services is essential to sustaining forest health and productivity, and hence, the general welfare;
- Landowner interests are best served when represented by ethical, competent forestry professionals;
- Forester licensing is required to ensure consistent ethical delivery of competent professional services;
- Forester licensing legislation should provide that individual landowners should retain the freedom to manage forest lands without the requirement to retain a licensed forester but only so long as the landowner's actions do not endanger the health safety and welfare of the general public;
- Forester Licensing is the province of the General Assembly;
- The Forestry Task Force of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee should recommend forester licensing to the General Assembly;
- The General Assembly should deliberate and act favorably on legislation to license foresters.