



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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Transportation Conference Committee Members,

Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc. (MFI) is an association representing Minnesota's primary forest product companies. MFI and its member companies encourage conservation, proper forest management, and industry development that foster sound environmental stewardship, multiple use of timber lands, and sustainable, long-term timber supply. We contribute \$16.8 billion to Minnesota's economy and provide nearly 69,000 jobs.

House File 2887-4, Article 4, Section 23, Line 86.6 to 88.12 allows MnDOT to permit logging trucks that are 12 inches wider than standard, up to 9-and-a-half feet. This bill does not change existing truck weight limits. Less than 4% of the timber moved in the state would be hauled at this increased width. Several safety measures would go along with the permit, including flags on the load, wider mirrors, and restrictions on when and where these loads would be allowed.

This change is needed to fulfill a societal need and to maximize efficient use of raw materials. The standard ceiling height in home construction is now 9 feet. MFI member company PotlatchDeltic in Bemidji makes wall studs for home construction. This change would allow them to receive logs of the length sufficient to make the requested product. Additionally, there are times at sawmills when having longer raw materials would result in less waste of natural resources when trimming boards to length.

We support the position of the House and ask that you retain this section in the final bill. It would help our loggers and truckers economically, keep them legal, and reduce liability when hauling. It would help the forest products industry meet consumer demand and reduce waste of natural resources. We ask for your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rick Horton
Executive Vice President
Minnesota Forest Industries