



## Pennsylvania Forest Products Association

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March 22, 2021

The Honorable Elder Vogel  
Chairman, Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
362 Main Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203047  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3047

Dear Senator Vogel and Members of the Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association (PFPA), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 110, Printer's Number 0078, which is scheduled for consideration by the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Tuesday, March 23.

House Bill 110 proposes to update Act 116 of 1988, known as the Hardwoods Development Council Act, to add four new members to the Hardwoods Development Council (HDC) while updating outdated language. Specifically, the bill proposes to add the Secretary of Education, a representative of the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG), a logger and a private sector forester. These provisions will ensure that the various stakeholders in our industry are fully represented in the HDC, while also providing the Secretary of Education a formal role in the Council's activities, enhancing the ability of the HDC to build partnerships to address the important workforce development issues our industry faces.

Additionally, the bill updates the reference to the Hardwood Lumber Manufacturing Association (HLMA), which was renamed the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association in 2003. While this provision is helpful because it clarifies the statute, it will not change the composition of the HDC. The PFPA has continuously filled the HLMA seat on the HDC for the past 18 years. As PFPA's new executive director, I was recently appointed in this role.

PFPA recognizes the importance of the HDC to Pennsylvania's Forest Products Industry and the great work that is done by the staff at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the three regional organizations known as the Hardwoods Utilization Groups (HUGs) – the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG), the Keystone Wood Products Association (KWPA) and the Northern Tier Hardwoods Association (NTHA) – which all work in concert with the HDC to support a vibrant and sustainable Forest Products Industry in our Commonwealth.

PFPA consists of over 250 member companies, representing an industry that directly employs over 63,000 Pennsylvanians whose livelihoods depend on a supply chain that begins in our forests and runs through sawmills and manufacturing facilities in all 67 counties to provide products to consumers that are in high demand. Our green, renewable resource is harvested

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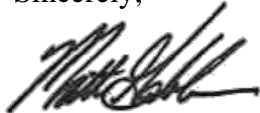
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sustainably in a manner that provides vast environmental benefits. By actively managing Pennsylvania's forests, our industry provides superior wildlife habitat, increased capacity for carbon storage, and an accelerated rate of carbon capture.

We believe House Bill 110 is a timely and well-crafted update to the enabling statute for the Hardwoods Development Council (HDC), and we respectfully request the committee's affirmative vote for this legislation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our request. If I may be of assistance in any way, or if there is any additional information I may provide, please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gabler", written in a cursive style.

Matt Gabler  
Executive Director