



FRED CLARK

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE ♦ 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Rep. Fred Clark
608-266-7746

Assembly Forestry Committee Hears Job Creation Bills

MADISON – Earlier this week the Assembly Committee on Forestry held a public hearing for Assembly Bill 749 and Assembly Bill 754, both authored by Representative Fred Clark (D-Baraboo). AB 749 would offer tax credits for companies purchasing woody biomass harvesting equipment. AB 754 would give tax credits for lumber mill expansions.

Modeled on the business expansion tax credits passed in the state stimulus package for dairy and meat processor facilities, biomass harvesting equipment tax credits and lumber mill expansion tax credits are intended to promote modernization of Wisconsin's forest products industry. "Forestry is Wisconsin's second leading industry, and these tax credits will have a significant effect on our industry while also creating the jobs we so desperately need."

"Wisconsin is moving toward producing a larger share of its energy needs from local sources, and we know that biomass will be a major segment of the renewable energy mix. This bill will help Wisconsin loggers re-engineer their operations to harvest woody biomass, both as a complement to traditional forestry operations, as well as from dedicated operations such as from hybrid poplar or willow.

For AB 749, Rep. Clark said, "These tax credits are a great way to promote an industry proven to be a viable form of alternative energy and assist Wisconsin's independent loggers in entering this new market."

The lumber mill expansion tax credits, or AB 754, would allow Wisconsin's lumber industry to invest in new modernization and expansion initiatives. The lumber industry in North America has seen a significant market decline in both prices and volumes in recent years, resulting in the loss of many small lumber mills. Modernization investments can help Wisconsin mills stay competitive through these difficult times.

Clark commented on AB 754. "Offering tax incentives for lumber mills to expand is another way to invest in Wisconsin jobs and business growth. Our state's forestry industry provides family supporting jobs, and these tax incentives for lumber mills to expand are additional tools in the toolbox for forest-based businesses."

Representative Fred Clark represents the 42nd Assembly District which covers parts of Sauk, Columbia, Marquette and Adams County. If you would like to get in touch with Rep. Clark about upcoming bills or need assistance with state government matters you may call him at 1-888-534-0042, email him at Rep.Clark@legis.wi.gov, or stop by his office at 418 north in the Wisconsin State Capitol.

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