

RESOLUTION 2015 - 20

Re: Increase the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for County Forest Lands from \$.30 to \$1.00 per Acre

WHEREAS, Vilas County has six (6) towns with County Forest totaling 41,072 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, County Forest Lands are entered under Wis. Stat. §28.11 County Forest Law, which outlines the framework for County Forest Management; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §28.11 requires compensation and a reasonable revenue to towns; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin currently provides a PILT payment of \$.30 per acre to local units of government containing County Forest Lands. This amount was established in 1989 and has not increased in over 25 years; and

WHEREAS, National PILT payments for National Forest Lands are approximately \$1.00 per acre to local units of government; and

WHEREAS, PILT payments to towns help maintain forest roads providing access into the County Forests; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the County Forest PILT payment to \$1 would increase payments to towns in Vilas County by over \$29,450 annually; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the forest mil tax for at least three years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 24th day of March, 2015 that we support an increased PILT payment to Counties with County Forest Lands to \$1.00 per acre, and ask that the funding and funding authority be included in the State of Wisconsin's Biennial Budget (2015-17).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Scott Walker, WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, Representative Swearingen, Representative Mursau, and Senator Tiffany.

SUBMITTED BY: Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee

Steve Doyen, Chair

s/ Rocky Caffarella

s/ Ken Anderson

s/ Art Kunde

Willy Otterpohl