

Timber Harvest Plan Moves to Governor's Desk

Bipartisan Measure Helps Timber Industry

A bipartisan measure by Assembly Tony Mendoza (D-Norwalk) to allow for more time to complete a timber harvest plan passed its final legislative hurdle today.

“Sawmill workers and their employers have had a devastating year,” said Senator Dave Cox. “This modest measure provides a more reasonable and efficient timber harvest plan review process that will enable the State to reduce its costs.”

Assembly Bill 1066 extends the life of timber harvest plans from five to seven years and reduces regulatory costs for private foresters until 2012. By reducing regulatory requirements without sacrificing environmental protection, this measure will make California-produced wood more competitive with its neighboring states.

In recent years, burdensome regulations have doubled the costs for Timber Harvest Plan developments and reviews. California's timber companies pay approximately \$60 per thousand board feet while those in Oregon pay a mere \$8 per thousand board feet.

In March, Sierra Pacific Industries announced the closures of sawmills in Camino, Quincy, and Sonora. Over 436 workers were laid off.

Forestry issues are important to residents of the North State. Groups like the Sustainable Forest Action Coalition and the Quincy Library Group have been instrumental in highlighting these issues for policy-makers.

“With the state's high unemployment rate, this measure provides a glimmer of hope for unemployed sawmill workers. Assemblyman Mendoza, all community leaders and businesses involved should be applauded for their dedication and hardwork,” Sen. Cox added.

Senator Dave Cox represents the residents of the First Senate District, which includes all or portions of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Placer, Plumas, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Sacramento and Sierra Counties. Contact his office at 916-651-4001, or via email at senator.cox@sen.ca.gov.