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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Housing
(AC-Ho)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Mike Barman (LRB) (Aug/2010)

Absent: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7,
Noes 0

Moved by Representative Young, seconded by Representative
Honadel that LRB **a0442/3** be recommended for adoption.

Ayes: (7) Representatives Wieckert, Stone, Townsend,
Honadel, Hebl, Young and A. Williams.

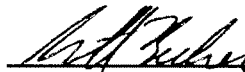
Noes: (0) None.

A0442/3 ADOPTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Moved by Representative Hebl, seconded by Representative
Townsend that **Senate Bill 28** be recommended for concurrence as
amended.

Ayes: (7) Representatives Wieckert, Stone, Townsend,
Honadel, Hebl, Young and A. Williams.

Noes: (0) None.



Scott Becher
Committee Clerk



Vote Record Committee on Housing

Date: 1/24/08

Moved by: HEBL

Seconded by: TOWNSEND

AB _____ SB 28 _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Steve Wieckert, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jeff Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative John Townsend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Honadel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gary Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leon Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Annette Polly Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 7 0 _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Housing

Date: 1/24/08

Moved by: YOUNG

Seconded by: HONADEL

AB _____ SB 28 _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1 _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage
 Adoption
 Confirmation
 Concurrence
 Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction
 Rejection
 Tabling
 Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Steve Wieckert, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jeff Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative John Townsend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Honadel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Gary Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leon Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Annette Polly Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



SB 28 Feb. 14, 2007 ⁵⁻³⁻ ~~April 12,~~ 2007
Comments from Joe Hovel, Partners in Forestry Cooperative

I have a 34 year career in alternative building construction and sustainable forest management in Wisconsin, and have striven to utilize local resources whenever practical. Currently, I also have the pleasure of chairing Partners in Forestry Co-op.

Senate Bill 28 is a common sense measure to encourage building inspectors to recognize the integrity of Wisconsin's forest resource. Our soft wood resource, scattered from the lower river valley through the central sands and in abundance in the Northwoods, is a growing commodity. We should be proud of this resource and demonstrate this by promoting the use of sustainably harvested materials at the local level, enhancing local economies and conserving valuable fuel. These high quality products should be put to their BEST use.

It is cost and policy prohibitive to officially grade all construction lumber at the point of manufacture. By directing this resource to only a select few mills we impede the free market, devalue the product and encourage craftsmen to practice in bordering states. A small scale mill owner or builder, those not represented by large trade and lobby associations, should not be penalized for using framing and beam work in a rough sawn form, as is so common in the alternative building markets. When a landowner desires to construct his own home from his own resource harvested from his own woodland, we should encourage and help him.

A solution to the question of quality concerns could be to offer education to landowners and builders in the utilization of locally produced lumber. These short courses might cover grading for strength, sizing to insure structural integrity, and other relevant topics. I would suggest, as partners in sponsoring these sessions, the Departments of Natural Resources and Commerce, U W Extension, and private associations such as Partners in Forestry. Individuals with practical experience can also offer tremendous value to the process of education.

This Bill is important to the livelihood of several of our members, including myself, who build for the alternative market. I can only imagine how important it is to the balance of rural Wisconsin. For example, the Amish communities would greatly benefit, where craftsmen have a tradition of using the local resource.

This Bill also supports the Uniform Dwelling Code—page one, subchapter one, Comm.20.02 paragraph 5 states that “No part of this code is intended to prohibit or discourage the construction of innovative dwellingsor any other non conventional structure. “

I will assure you that this concept can work. More than 25 years ago I was active as a young builder in Adams County. At that time Adams County had the foresight to adopt the UDC at a county level, and, more importantly, implement a staff of commonsense inspectors who had practical experience. They used discretion guided by their experience to oversee alternative construction, just as this Bill should encourage UDC inspectors to do. I enjoyed and much respected the relationship I had with them.

More recently, with the UDC now a part of all rural towns, we see private inspectors traveling great distance to contract with towns. Many of these inspectors have no attachment to the community they serve and may have no incentive to look out side of "conventional" building techniques. Senate Bill 28 may provide this incentive. As a bonus this bill strengthens local economies, encourages forest management, allows loggers and landowners to enjoy higher prices in the free market, conserves fuel, and encourages some of our very best self thinking craftsmen to produce their very best while adding to Wisconsin infrastructure. This bill has the potential to positively impact all, from the producer to the consumer.



Two buildings in northern Wisconsin built entirely of local timber resources

Partners in Forestry COOP
6063 Baker Lake Road
Conover, Wis. 54519
715-479-8528



Becher, Scott

From: Jerry Deschane [JDeschane@wisbuild.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2007 4:30 PM
To: Becher, Scott
Subject: FW: Load-bearing timber legislation

Scott, this email is from a member who builds timber frame homes.

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Merlie [mailto:rich@rlmerlie.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2007 4:26 PM
To: Jerry Deschane
Subject: RE: Load-bearing timber legislation

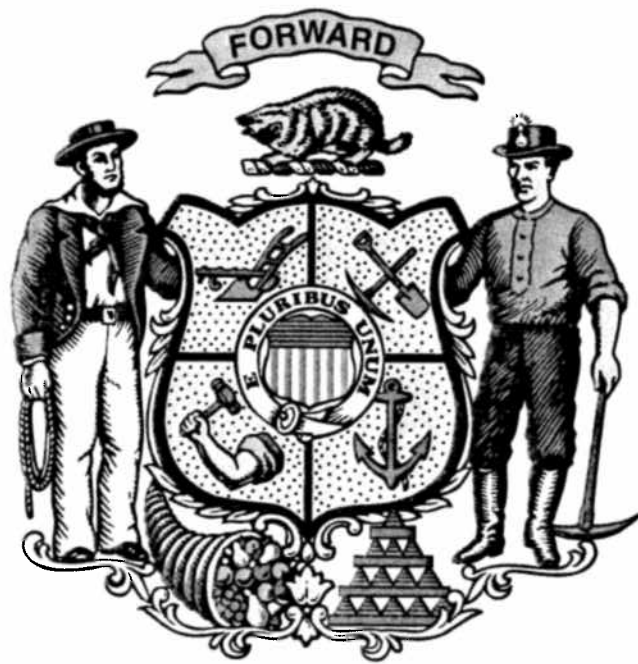
SB 28

Jerry:

I never use local timber for structural purposes. All our structural lumber comes from Tennessee and is graded by an independent agency. The problem I see with the legislature doing this is that it puts reputable heavy timber builders at a disadvantage. There will be so much grey area on things it will be a legal nightmare if there ever is a structural failure. Also think about the lumber yards that carry engineered products such as laminated beams and paralams, this puts them at an unfair disadvantage. Even if you are using local timber, why would you not want it graded? Why would the contractor or consumer not want it graded? Who is this legislation supposedly helping? 2x4s are graded and they will carry a lot less load than say a 10x12 beam, I for one would not be comfortable with a major support, a ridge beam that was not graded. When we do commercial projects as well as some residential projects, we not only have the timbers graded we also have an engineer review them and stamp the design for the specific use in Wisconsin.

What is an inspector supposed to do, he can probably determine if the timber can support the load, but he has to know what grade of wood he is looking at. I would suggest that this legislator personally indemnify the builder, the logger and the inspector if there is ever a problem with faulty material causing major damage or even loss of life. Do you think he or she would want to risk his or her livelihood?

Rich

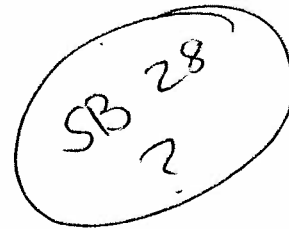




PO BOX 700080 • Oostburg, WI 53070 • 877-250-3300 TOLL FREE • 877-778-3300 FAX

March 22, 2007

State Representative Steve Wieckert
Housing Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953



Dear Representative Wieckert,

It has come to my attention that legislation is currently before the Wisconsin Assembly regarding an exemption of construction standards for certain load-bearing dimensional lumber.

As a Wisconsin resident and business owner I strongly believe that an exemption such as this will set back the efforts of the home building community to provide safe, quality housing. The requirement for statewide building inspections of one and two family dwellings was a step forward; this exemption would be three steps back.

As the bill states, it would "...allow the person milling the lumber to provide a written certification that the lumber meets or exceeds the construction standards." 1st party certification like this does not provide the proper checks and balances necessary to ensure home buyers across the state of Wisconsin the security they deserve.

My company designs and manufactures log homes. Although our primary product is kiln-dried, hand-crafted half-log siding, we do incorporate and supply structural log members in every home that we supply. We are proud of the quality product that we manufacture and take all steps necessary (including third party certification) to insure that our customers have a structurally sound log home. As a small manufacturer, we face the same financial struggles as those who support this exemption; however, this is just one corner that should not be cut! This type of legislation not only hurts Wisconsin families, the horror stories that come from issues related to the problems caused by this hurt our industry. Wisconsin homeowners deserve the right to have their safety guaranteed.

Expedition Log Homes is a member of the Log Homes Council. The Log Homes Council is a member organization of log home manufacturers and is part of the National Association of Home Builders. All members of the Log Homes Council are required to follow the strict regulations of membership within the Council. One of those requirements is that all members subscribe to a 3rd party certified log grading program. This requirement of membership sets a necessary bar for the industry, ensuring that all structural members used in housing are safe and of a quality approved standard.

My business partners and I have worked in the log home industry for more than 20 years. We believe so strongly in the grading process that one of my partners is the Chairperson of the Log Homes Council Grading Committee. Ensuring code compliance is an important issue, because the truth is, there are many log home companies out there that do not grade their timbers or follow a standard building code. While the requirement of grading in the LHC has been in existence for years, it was not until this year that a standard specific to log construction developed by the International Code Council (ICC) was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This standard will require that all log structures meet the high standards that any homeowner deserves. ICC CEO Rick Weiland indicated that the ICC Board of Directors "...recognized the need for a standard for log construction to help ensure the safety of log homes and other buildings...bringing an added level of protection to residential structures."

The processes that have been undertaken nationally to protect housing consumers by making sure that there are standards in the building code for logs would be negatively impacted by legislation of this type. Wisconsin is known as a state that takes care of their residents, not as one that puts them in harms way.

Your consideration of this letter to put an end to this legislation is appreciated. Should you like to speak in person, please feel free to contact me at 877-250-3300 or janek@expeditionloghomes.com.

Sincerely,

Jan Koepsell
Managing Member
Expedition Log Homes, LLC



State Representative Steve Wieckert
Housing Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

March 23, 2007

SB 28
?

Dear Representative Wieckert,

It has come to my attention that concerning legislation is currently before the Wisconsin Assembly regarding an exemption of construction standards for certain load-bearing dimensional lumber. It is my strong opinion that an exemption such as this will set back the efforts of the home building community to provide safe, quality housing. My company has been in business since 1977 and have supplied hundreds of homes made from graded logs to Wisconsin consumers. A properly constructed log home will last for centuries and your constituents deserve the peace of mind that their home will be properly constructed.

As the bill states, it would "...allow the person milling the lumber to provide a written certification that the lumber meets or exceeds the construction standards." 1st party certification like this does not provide the proper checks and balances necessary to ensure home buyers across the state of Wisconsin the security they deserve. All framing lumber for conventional "stick" homes must be graded. Why would log home owners deserve less?

I am a 27 year member of The Log Homes Council, which is a national organization of log home manufacturers and is part of the National Association of Home Builders. All members of the Log Homes Council are required to follow the strict regulations of membership within the Council. One of those requirements is that all members subscribe to a 3rd party certified log grading program. In the early 1980's, the LHC wrote the first uniform grade rules defining and quantifying the limiting characteristics of structural members. The LHC membership is required to grade all structural members through 3rd party certified programs that are in compliance with the International Accreditation Service under the ISO 17020 requirements for grading agencies. This requirement of membership sets a necessary bar for the industry, ensuring that all structural members used in housing are safe and of a quality approved standard.

Ensuring code compliance is an important issue, because the truth is, there are many log home companies out there that do not grade their timbers or follow a standard building code. While the requirement of grading in the LHC has been in existence for years, it was not until this year that a standard specific to log construction developed by the International Code Council (ICC) was approved by the American National Standards Institute



Corporate Headquarters
10423 Old Highway 54
New Bloomfield, MO 65063

1-800-654-9253
(573) 896-5122 Tele
(573) 896-5510 Fax

www.oakloghome.com

SOLID
OAK!



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(ANSI). This standard will require that **all** log structures meet the high standards that any homeowner deserves. ICC CEO Rick Weiland indicated that the ICC Board of Directors "...recognized the need for a standard for log construction to help ensure the safety of log homes and other buildings...bringing an added level of protection to residential structures."

The processes that have been undertaken nationally to protect housing consumers by making sure that there are standards in the building code for logs would be negatively impacted by legislation of this type. Homeowners deserve the right to have their safety guaranteed. The Log Home Council wishes only to improve our products and protect the reputation of our industry.

Your consideration of this letter to put an end to this legislation is appreciated. Should you like to speak in person, please feel free to contact me at 800-654-9253 or by email to lgastineau@oakloghome.com.

Yours truly,



Lynn Gastineau
President

P.S. We have local dealers throughout Wisconsin and collect sales tax which we send to you regularly!

SOLID
OAK!





Coventry Log Homes, Inc.

108 South Court Street, Woodsville, NH 03785

1-800-308-7505 Fax 603-747-3340

www.coventryloghomes.com

March 23, 2007

State Representative Steve Wieckert
Housing Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Representative Wieckert,

I am writing to express my company's concern over **Senate Bill 28** that is to come before you for a vote. As a reputable company that has sold log homes in your state for years, I wish to urge you to vote against this Bill. We are members of the Log Homes Council and subscribe to a code of ethics to ensure that we supply a quality well built home. As part of this commitment, we incorporate the practice of 3rd party grading to set high standards in our industry.

Customers who buy from us know that their logs have been graded to ensure structural integrity. We believe that it is important to have this as a standard for all log home companies. It only makes sense to me that *any quality home builder would submit to 3rd party grading if they know their product is good.* That is why the International Code Council (ICC) has approved a Log Standard to make all builders comply with this standard. The ICC code will require that **all** log structures meet the high standards that any homeowner deserves.

As a company that wishes to continue to do business in your state, I ask that you consider this request to uphold the ICC Log Standard and vote against this Bill.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I may be reached at (603) 747-8177 ext. 1001 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Elliott".

Mark Elliott
VP, CLH

Built on Quality, Tradition and Excellence



Becher, Scott

From: Piliouras, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2007 8:51 AM
To: Becher, Scott
Subject: SB28 - home grown lumber

Hi Scott:

I'll give you a call this morning.

Would Representative Wieckert be willing to hold a hearing on it?

Thanks!
Beth

Beth Piliouras

Senator Roger Breske
608-266-2509





Log Homes Council
National Association of Home Builders
1201 15th Street, NW Washington DC 20005
800-368-5242, ext. 8353 Fax: 202-266-8141
www.loghomes.org

March 30, 2007

State Representative Steve Wieckert
Housing Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

SB 28
?

Dear Representative Wieckert,

It has come to the attention of the Log Homes Council (LHC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) that legislation is currently before the Wisconsin Assembly regarding an exemption of construction standards for certain load-bearing dimensional lumber.

It is the strong opinion of the Log Homes Council of NAHB that an exemption such as this will set back the efforts of the home building community to provide safe, quality housing.

As the bill states, it would "...allow the person milling the lumber to provide a written certification that the lumber meets or exceeds the construction standards." 1st party certification like this does not provide the proper checks and balances necessary to ensure home buyers across the state of Wisconsin the security they deserve.

The Log Homes Council is a member organization of log home manufacturers and is part of the National Association of Home Builders. All members of the Log Homes Council are required to follow the strict regulations of membership within the Council. One of those requirements is that all members subscribe to a 3rd party certified log grading program. In the early 1980's, the LHC wrote the first uniform grade rules defining and quantifying the limiting characteristics of structural members. The LHC membership is required to grade all structural members through 3rd party certified programs that are in compliance with the International Accreditation Service under the ISO 17020 requirements for grading agencies. This requirement of membership sets a necessary bar for the industry, ensuring that all structural members used in housing are safe and of a quality approved standard.

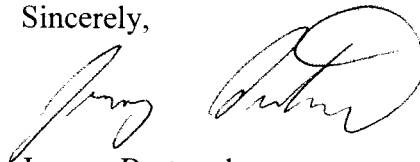
Ensuring code compliance is an important issue, because the truth is, there are many log home companies out there that do not grade their timbers or follow a standard building code. While the requirement of grading in the LHC has been in existence for years, it was not until this year that a standard specific to log construction developed by the International Code Council (ICC) was approved by the American National Standards

Institute (ANSI). This standard will require that **all** log structures meet the high standards that any homeowner deserves. ICC CEO Rick Weiland indicated that the ICC Board of Directors "...recognized the need for a standard for log construction to help ensure the safety of log homes and other buildings...bringing an added level of protection to residential structures."

The processes that have been undertaken nationally to protect housing consumers by making sure that there are standards in the building code for logs would be negatively impacted by legislation of this type. Homeowners deserve the right to have their safety guaranteed.

Your consideration of this letter to put an end to this legislation is appreciated. Should you like to speak in person, please feel free to contact me at 202-266-8353 or jbertrand@nahb.com.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Bertrand
Executive Director, Log Homes Council
National Association of Home Builders

The Log Homes Council, established in 1977, is an organization of leading log home manufacturers dedicated to promoting the distinct benefits of log building systems. As the voice of the industry, we educate, inspire and advance the continued use of quality, renewable log products.

The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 235,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. Known as "the voice of the housing industry," NAHB is affiliated with more than 800 state and local home builders associations around the country.





Field, Adam

From: Hovels [logcabin@nnex.net]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 9:24 AM
To: jbertrand@nahb.com
Cc: Rep.Wieckert
Subject: Wisconsin Letter

Dear Jeremy,

I have reviewed the letter you sent to Wis. State Rep. Wieckert opposing SB 28. I attempted to call you this morning, but this route was suggested by your staff. I have several questions and would like very much to speak directly to you concerning this.

It was suggested to our group three years ago, to pursue a local lumber use bill. This suggestion came to me by N E L M A , N S L B and a southern grading organization as well. Our membership is very concerned of the lack of recognition our soft wood resource receives in an ungraded form, thus preventing woodland owners from using their best quality S P F for their own building construction. This bill has cleared our state Senate 32-1 after a full review in the Senate Housing Committee.

While awaiting the opportunity to speak with you I leave you with several brief questions, Can your association help our membership in grading specifically structural members in a rough sawn form ?
Would this be cost effective for Wisconsin forest land owners ?
With your opposition to this bill are you also actively working to overturn local lumber use bills in other states that our draft was modelled after ?
According to NELMA and NSLB these laws are very common.
I would appreciate a dialogue with whoever in Wisconsin initiated your concerns, so we can look for common ground and move forward. I have a call in to Brad Boycks, and had a nice conversation with Jerry Deschane two weeks ago.
I thank you for your attention to this matter and await the chance to speak with you.

Joe Hovel
Partners in Forestry COOP
6063 Baker Lake Rd.
Conover, Wis. 54519
715-479-8528





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

USDA Forest Product Laboratory
One Gifford Pinchot Drive, RM 130
Madison, Wisconsin 53726-2398
Telephone 608-231-9333
FAX 608-231-9592
TTY Access via relay - 711

Testimony for Public Hearing - Assembly Committee on Housing, May 3, 2007

Prepared by

Terry Mace
Forest Utilization and Marketing Specialist
DNR-Division of Forestry
One Gifford Pinchot Drive
Madison, WI 53726
Phone 608 231-9333
email: terry.mace@Wisconsin.gov

Senate Bill -28

Relating to: exemption from construction standards for certain load-bearing dimension lumber. By Senators Breske, Schultz and Lassa; cosponsored by Representatives Hubler, Hahn, Hines, Albers, Mursau, Ballweg, Nygren and Seidel

The DNR supports Senate Bill 28.

This bill addresses the need for a way to allow the use of locally produced structural lumber from small local sawmills in residential construction by a home owner. An example of this would be if an individual wanted to have some local timber (such as trees from his land) custom sawn into lumber at a small sawmill to build his/her own home, or to buy lumber from a small local mill to use in construction of his/her own home. Technically this is not allowed currently unless the lumber is grade stamped. It is cost prohibitive for a small mill to get and maintain grade stamping authority.

The cost of lumber inspection for a small Wisconsin mill normally will preclude them from participating in a soft wood lumber grade stamp program. The most commonly used association in Wisconsin for softwood lumber grading is the Northeast Lumber Manufacturers Association, which then sub contracts with the Northern Softwood Lumber Bureau. This requires a trained softwood lumber grader on site and a fee of \$300 per month or .52 per thousand bf (board feet) of all softwood lumber shipment regardless of whether or not the lumber is grade stamped. The fee goes down to .40 per thousand bf when the production exceeds 10 million bf annually. For a mill cutting less than 600 thousand bf per year the cost would be \$3,600 per year plus the cost of the lumber grader. The fee for a sawmill cutting 3 million bf per year would be around \$18,000 per year plus the cost of the lumber grader whose salaries could be in the range of \$35,000 to \$45,000 per year. This system does not allow for you to hire a contract grader to come in and grade just the lumber you want to have stamped.

The Wisconsin Primary Wood Using Industry Directory maintained by the DNR division of forestry lists 278 sawmills, of which 78 produce 100,000 bf or less per year.. These are the people that this law is intended to help. There are only two large sawmills in Wisconsin that produce large quantities of structural lumber which are sold across the nation requiring a grade stamp and would still need to maintain their grade stamp. This grade stamp is effectively required if the producer hopes to sell lumber through a retail lumber yard, or in rare circumstances to a large builder doing spec construction - and the local use bill being proposed would not encroach on this market territory.

The legislation requires that the sawmill provide written certification that the lumber meets or exceeds the standards and it also allows the local building inspector to reject the lumber or to require that larger members, or closer spacing or shorter spans may be required if it is felt by the local building inspector that the lumber does not in every way meet the standards of grade stamped lumber. The certification will also include documentation of the species

represented allowing adjustment of sizes, spacing and spans as desirable appropriate to the strength properties of the species being provided.

This is a common sense bill that will help the local communities economically by allowing local product to be used. This also provides our citizens with a means of using their own timber in their family home, providing a greater linkage with their land. It also expands some opportunities for struggling small Wisconsin mills in a restoration of local practices that had occurred for many years without problems.





Mary Hubler

May 3, 2007

State Representative

Testimony of Rep. Mary Hubler to the Assembly Committee on Housing Regarding Senate Bill 28

Chairman Wiekert and members of the Committee on Housing, thank you for accepting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 28. I regret that I cannot attend today's meeting to deliver my remarks personally.

SB 28 addresses key problems, especially for home owners and builders in rural Wisconsin, or anywhere that homes in a rustic style are built.

Under Wisconsin law, all load bearing lumber in homes must be grade-stamped. That means that the grader must be nationally certified, which is a serious expense and hurdle for small milling operations.

The products of these small mills is often of better quality than graded materials.

Log cabins and houses are among the sturdiest residential buildings in our state. Logs cannot be graded. Rough-sawn lumber or lumber that is not planed on one side cannot be graded, although the logs are absolutely sound and the boards of the best possible quality.

This bill provides safeguards. Homeowners have to request use of these logs or lumber in writing. That makes the homeowner responsible for the selection of these materials. The bill requires the miller to certify that the materials meet or exceed building standards.

Building inspectors will still be allowed to compel the builder to reinforce the structure or may reject the project as a whole.

Senate Bill 28 encourages the use of Wisconsin grown products and helps small Wisconsin milling operations. It provides new home builders easier access to the safe and attractive option of log construction or rough sawn lumber.

Last session this bill was passed by the Senate and was approved unanimously by the Assembly Committee on Forestry.

This bill deserves passage and I hope that you will take executive action and vote for approval.





COMPANY LETTERHEAD

SB 28
?

November 30, 2007

State Representative Steve Wieckert
Housing Committee Chairman
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Representative Wieckert,

It has come to the attention of the Log Homes Council (LHC) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) that you are looking to hold a committee hearing in the near future regarding an exemption of construction standards for certain load-bearing dimensional lumber, the issue that originally was before the Wisconsin Assembly this past spring.

I am writing to indicate our opposition to this as it will set back the efforts of the home building community to provide safe, quality housing.

As the bill states, it would "...allow the person milling the lumber to provide a written certification that the lumber meets or exceeds the construction standards." 1st party certification like this does not provide the proper checks and balances necessary to ensure home buyers across the state of Wisconsin the security they deserve.

As a member of the Log Homes Council of the National Association of Home Builders, I am required to follow the strict regulations of membership within the Council. One of those requirements is that all members subscribe to a 3rd party certified log grading program. In the early 1980's, the LHC wrote the first uniform grade rules defining and quantifying the limiting characteristics of structural members. The LHC membership is required to grade all structural members through 3rd party certified programs that are in compliance with the International Accreditation Service under the ISO 17020 requirements for grading agencies. This requirement of membership sets a necessary bar for the industry, ensuring that all structural members used in housing are safe and of a quality approved standard.

Ensuring code compliance is an important issue, because the truth is, there are many log home companies out there that do not grade their timbers or follow a standard building code. While the requirement of grading in the LHC has been in existence for years, it was not until this year that a standard specific to log construction developed by the International Code Council (ICC) was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ICC-400 will require that all log structures meet the high standards that

any homeowner deserves. ICC CEO Rick Weiland indicated that the ICC Board of Directors "...recognized the need for a standard for log construction to help ensure the safety of log homes and other buildings...bringing an added level of protection to residential structures."

The processes that have been undertaken nationally to protect housing consumers by making sure that there are standards in the building code for logs would be negatively impacted by legislation of this type. Homeowners deserve the right to have their safety guaranteed.

Your consideration of this letter to put an end to this legislation is appreciated. Should you like to speak in person, please feel free to contact me at 919 732 9286

Sincerely,

Ron Wolfe

Council Member
Providing Graded Logs to WI.

The Log Homes Council, established in 1977, is an organization of leading log home manufacturers dedicated to promoting the distinct benefits of log building systems. As the voice of the industry, we educate, inspire and advance the continued use of quality, renewable log products.

The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 235,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. Known as "the voice of the housing industry," NAHB is affiliated with more than 800 state and local home builders associations around the country.

12/1/07

Sir. I feel it is vital backyard mills and slick business practise be regulated and stopped to protect consumers building Log Homes in WI. I ship there often and provide a grade certificate with each order. Please keep in mind the need to build correctly and protect your residents. Thank you for



Wholesale
LOG HOMES, INC.

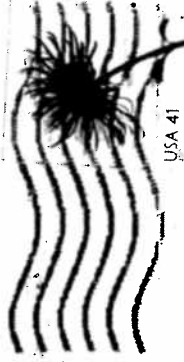
P.O. Box 177, Hillsborough, NC 27278
www.wholesaleloghomes.com

Ronald E. Wolfe
President

(919) 732-9286

WHOLESALE LOG HOMES, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 177
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278

GREENSBORO NC 270
PIEDMONT TRIAD AREA
01 DEC 2007 PM 3 L

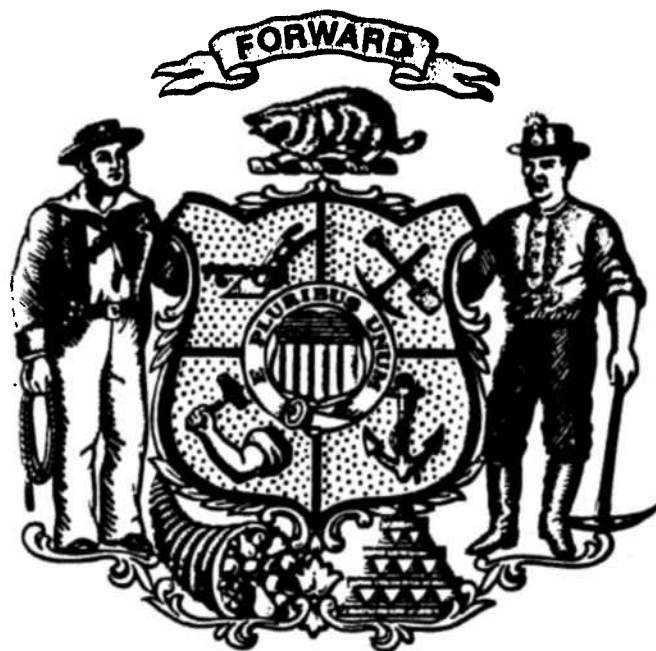


Rep Steve Weckert
Housing Comm Chairman
Madison WI



53708/3993

53708-8953
53708/3993



SB28

SENATE BILL 28

An Act to renumber and amend 101.977; to amend 101.66 (1); and to create 101.66 (1m) and 101.977 (2) of the statutes; relating to: exemption from construction standards for certain load-bearing dimension lumber. (FE)

2007

- 02-07-07. S. Introduced by Senators Breske, Schultz and Lassa; cosponsored by Representatives Hubler, Hahn, Hines, Albers, Mursau, Ballweg, Nygren and Seidel.
- 02-07-07. S. Read first time and referred to committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Family Prosperity and Housing. 78
- 02-14-07. S. Fiscal estimate received.
- 02-14-07. S. Public hearing held.
- 02-20-07. S. Executive action taken.
- 02-21-07. S. Report passage recommended by committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Family Prosperity and Housing, Ayes 7, Noes 0. 107
- 02-21-07. S. Available for scheduling.
- 02-26-07. S. Referred to joint committee on Finance by committee on Senate Organization, pursuant to Senate Rule 41 (1)(e), Ayes 5, Noes 0. 114
- 02-26-07. S. Withdrawn from joint committee on Finance and made Available for Scheduling by committee on Senate Organization, pursuant to Senate Rule 41 (1)(e), Ayes 5, Noes 0 114
- 02-26-07. S. Emergency statement attached by committee on Senate Organization, pursuant to s. 16.47 (2) Wisconsin Statutes, Ayes 5, Noes 0.
- 02-26-07. S. Placed on calendar 2-27-2007 by committee on Senate Organization.
- 02-27-07. S. Read a second time. 117
- 02-27-07. S. Ordered to a third reading. 117
- 02-27-07. S. Rules suspended. 117
- 02-27-07. S. Read a third time and **passed**, Ayes 32, Noes 1 117
- 02-27-07. S. Ordered immediately messaged. 117
- 03-05-07. A. Received from Senate. 84
- 03-05-07. A. Read first time and referred to committee on Housing. 84
- 05-03-07. A. Public hearing held.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR _____ A.M.

DATE _____ TIME _____ P.M.

M. GLENN CHRISTOPHERSON

OF _____

PHONE (262) 897-7540

FAX AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

MOBILE AREA CODE NUMBER TIME TO CALL

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE SENATE BILL 28

SIGNED _____ **Office DEPOT**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR _____ A.M.

DATE _____ TIME _____ P.M.

M. JERRY MISS

OF _____

PHONE (920) 757-9869

FAX AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

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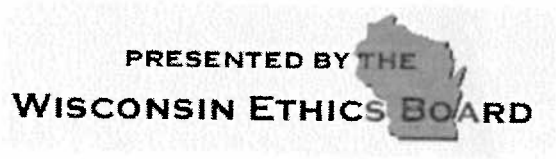
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE IN FAVOR
SENATE BILL 28

SIGNED _____ **Office DEPOT**



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- ▶ Lobbying in Wisconsin
- ▶ Organizations employing lobbyists
- ▶ Lobbyists



as of Friday, March 09, 2007

2007-2008 legislative session
Legislative bills and resolutions
 (search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)
 Text, Sponsors and Analysis
 Status and Fiscal Estimate
 Lobbying Effort on this item

Senate Bill 28

exemption from construction standards for certain load-bearing dimension lumber. (FE)

Organization		These organizations have reported lobbying on this proposal:	Place pointer on icon to display comments click icon to display prior comments		
Profile	Interests		Date Notified	Position	Comm
●	●	Great Lakes Timber Professional Association of Michigan & Wisconsin	2/20/2007	↑	
●	●	Lake States Lumber Association	2/20/2007	↑	
●	●	Plum Creek Timber Company Inc	2/22/2007	↔	
●	●	Wisconsin Builders Association	2/23/2007	↓	

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House

Proposal Type

Proposal Number (enter proposal number)

Legislative Session



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5. The Daily Reporter
6. Green Bay Press Gazette